

Friday February 12 1977

59,932

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# THE TIMES

A ghost garden,  
by Frank Tuohy:  
Saturday Review

## 4,000 car men tell minister to end pay restraint

Four thousand British Leyland demonstrators greeted Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, with roars of "No more restrictions" when he visited the company's Longbridge plant yesterday to plead for higher wages and productivity. Almost 15,000 of the

company's workers are idle because of disputes (details, page 17). Shop stewards replied to the minister's appeal with demands for free bargaining on pay. Fears of a government-union confrontation are believed to have caused a fall of nearly half a cent in the pound to \$1.7120.

## Stewards resist Leyland productivity call

Mr Webb, Leyland's industrial relations director, Secretary of State for Industry, went to British Leyland's Longbridge plant in Birmingham yesterday to tell workers of the need for fewer cars and more productivity. He found the focus of a mass demonstration against any form of productivity restraint.

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A Basset hound seems resigned to a long wait at Crufts Dog Show, which opened at Olympia, London, yesterday.

## Syrian troops to leave Israel border area

From Our Own Correspondent  
Jerusalem, Feb 11. Mr. Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, announced today that an agreement for the withdrawal of Syrian troops from the border area of southern Lebanon had been reached.

The pull-back, negotiated through United States mediation, would be carried out at the beginning of next week before the arrival on Tuesday of Mr. Vance, the American Secretary of State.

The border area was reported to be quiet today after yesterday's clashes between Palestinian and Christian Phalangists. Robert Fisk writes from Aishiyeh, southern Lebanon: The Syrian Army has only about 10 tanks and 400 men within 20 miles of the Israeli frontier. Eight of the tanks can be seen clearly from the winding mountainous road leading from Jezzine through Aishiyeh down to Nabateh, parked in fields or on the hillsides.

It would probably take less than 12 hours for every Syrian soldier in the area to effect a limited withdrawal. The few hundred troops stationed at the road junctions on the cloud-covered hillsides question every motorist who passes but are making no attempt to build fortifications or otherwise reinforce their positions.

Since the frontier is known to be under surveillance by both satellite observation and high-flying Israeli aircraft, the Government must be aware of just how few troops there are in the mountains across their border.

Down here in the foothills, where peasants still travel by donkey between villages and where the passage of a Syrian Army vehicle is still a comparatively rare event, it is difficult to see why the Israelis should suggest that the presence of the Syrian Army might necessitate military action.

A lieutenant at the Syrian checkpoint just outside Nabateh said that Israeli aircraft had passed overhead several times since they arrived 14 days ago. He said that his instructions were to prevent the movement of weapons, although his men seemed friendly enough when a carload of Palestinian guerrillas carrying Russian rifles drove down the road. They were going to allow the car to pass unchecked until they realized a journalist was watching them.

They stopped the car, took the rifles from the smiling passengers and asked for identity papers. They were handed two pink sheets of paper by the Palestinians, but after reading them the Syrians immediately gave back the guns.

Apart from their tanks, the only Syrian heavy weapons within a few miles are several batteries of anti-aircraft guns but they are mounted behind Jezzine round the reservoir that draws its waters from the Bishry river. The guns are still covered with tarpaulins to protect them from the snow and the defence of a reservoir more than 20 miles from the Israeli frontier could scarcely present a military threat.

Vance interview and Beirut fighting, page 3

## Raid on Madrid kidnap hideout frees two top Spanish officials

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Feb 11. Two top Spanish officials held captive by the Grapo guerrilla group were snatched from the hands of their kidnappers today when police raided the gang's hideout in Madrid. A Government spokesman said the police had made "important" arrests in the case.

In a day of spectacular police action, a police inspector was shot dead in Barcelona while trying to arrest two members of the Reconstituted Spanish Communist Party, and another policeman was injured. The raid was believed to be in connexion with the hunt for the kidnapers.

First of the kidnap victims to be freed was Lieutenant General Emilio Villacampa, president of Spain's highest military court who had been kidnapped outside his home 18 days ago. The initial reports said he was in good condition. Shortly afterwards, Señor Antonio María de Oriol, president of the Council of State and a member of the powerful Council of the Realm, was rescued. A wealthy banker, he had been marched from his office in the capital at gunpoint by a gang of young men on December 11.

An organization calling itself the First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups (Grapo) claimed responsibility for both kidnappings as well as for the murder of three policemen on January 28. Informed sources say the case

was cracked after police managed to capture two members of Grapo and got them to confess. From an early report it appears that the police swooped on a hideout in the Madrid suburb of Alcorcón, not far from where a member of the Civil Guard was killed at the end of January.

The apparently successful attack on the Grapo hideout was preceded on Wednesday by a decree banning the publication in the news media of any information related to the police search for terrorists. It now seems that the news blackout may have been intended to stop plans for the swoop on the kidnappers' lair from leaking out.

Madrid, Feb 11. General Villacampa, who is 64, suffers from a heart condition and was taken to a military hospital immediately after his rescue. Four people alleged to belong to a group closely linked with Grapo were arrested last week and two days later police found more than 200 sticks of dynamite in a left-luggage locker in a Madrid railway station.

Grapo first came to light in July, 1976, when it claimed responsibility for a wave of bombings on official monuments and buildings. It said it took its name from its first action, on October 1, 1975, when it killed four policemen. —Reuter.

Political time bomb and photographs, page 3

## Union will appeal to the Lords

The Post Office Engineering Union is to appeal to the House of Lords against the Court of Appeal judgments in the South African mail boycott case, it announced yesterday.

The appeal judges "appeared to take away the fundamental right of members of our union to take industrial action, putting the clock back over a hundred years", Mr Bryan Stanley, the union's general secretary, said.

The union also decided yesterday to "ask" the Prime Minister for urgent talks because the Appeal Court judgment appeared to take away much of the protection for all trade unionists provided by the Labour Government. It is to approach the TUC for its support.

## Sir Harold refers to Mr Haines's 'titbits'

Sir Harold Wilson said last night that he never suspected Mr Joe Haines of saying "titbits" while he was his press secretary. He was speaking after a visit with his wife to the London home of Lady Falkender.

"I have always been loyal to the people I have appointed," Sir Harold said. "Perhaps I have not always appreciated the right people. Asked what he felt about Mr Haines, he said: 'I hope he is very happy'."

His full answer to the allegations made in Mr Haines's memoirs would be "in the words of my old Yorkshire grandfather, not one lie in a hundred true". They would make an impression, he said, "only on people daft enough to believe them".

He said later: "I have been waiting to comment on them, but now I have been invited to go on ITN early next week. I will save what I have to say for that."

He did not claim that every memory of Mr Haines was false. "Bits here and bits there" were accurate, he said. Mr Donald Treford, editor of The Observer, said last night that Lady Falkender was responding to Mr Haines's allegations in two articles in the paper, the first appearing tomorrow. At her request there was no fee for the articles.

Photograph, page 2  
George Hutchinson, page 12

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## a £434m

light spending rates

Political Correspondent  
supplementary Estimates to the Budget, an extra £434m in current spending, bringing the total to £3,033m.

forecasts at Budget's account of the rise in pay and prices over the year, the main estimate based on the price levels when the Budget was prepared. With inflation rate supplementaries are inevitable.

an extra £113m ought for the health and social services only because of increased and capital to health authorities pay and price rises in building projects.

an offset of £17.5m, by recoveries of national insurance and more recoveries of year rebates from local authorities.

## India mourns 'a great patriot'

From Kuldip Nayar

Delhi, Feb 11. President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed of India died here today of a heart attack. He was 72.

Mr B. D. Jatti, the Vice-President, has been sworn in as acting President. Under the constitution, a new president has to be elected within six months by Members of Parliament and state assemblies.

There will be no change in the schedule for the general elections due on March 16.

Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, who was at Mr Ahmed's bedside when he died said "a great Indian, a great gentleman and a great Muslim" had passed away.

A state of mourning has been declared for 13 days. Mr Ahmed will be buried in Delhi on Sunday.

The President returned from Kuala Lumpur yesterday during a visit to Malaysia and the Philippines. He walked down the air-

craft gangway unaided and chatted with the Prime Minister, who was at the airport to receive him.

Mr Ahmed leaves a wife and three children. His eldest son, Dr Parved Ahmed, himself a cardiologist, is in the United States; he is his daughter, Mrs Samia Khan. His younger son, Mr Badar Durriz Ahmed, is a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Mr Ahmed, who took office as President on August 24, 1974, following the death of the late President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, was a distinguished leader, a statesman, a patriot and a mature politician.

Moscow: President Podgorniy postponed a visit to India due later this month because of the death of President Ahmed.

Earlier he visited the Indian Embassy to convey his condolences. —Reuter.

Washington: President Carter expressed his "deep personal regret" and announced he was sending his mother, Mrs Lillian Carter, aged 78 and his son, Mr Chip Carter, to represent the United States at the funeral. —AP.

Obituary, page 14

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## 3 pc farm price limit

Farm price increases in the EEC will not exceed 3 per cent if the Council of Ministers accepts a recommendation understood to have been adopted by the European Commission. But the Commission may balance the relatively low increase in the price of "green pound" adjustments.

Leader, page 33.  
Letter: On criticism of the Royal Family, from Mr D. E. Spillbury, and others; on Eire's attitude to terrorists, from Mr David Jones; on political memoirs, from Dame Anne Godwin.

Leading articles: Strange tales from Iraq: A poor deal from the life offices; Cricket records. Pages 6-12.  
George Hutchinson on the real damage of Labour's policy: "Stagnant match" "Hillside" Seely meets Gifford; Philip Howard on who got to America first; Saturday Review. Arts, page 9.  
John Percival talks to Marie Park about her role in John Cranston's ballet *Taming of the Shrew*; Welsh National Opera plans. Obituary, page 14.  
Business News: Mr G. V. Ferguson; President Ahmed. Sport, pages 15-16.  
Football: Northern Football League preview; Rugby Union: Exeter West on the loose. Player Cup; Athletics: Cliff Temple looks at Britain's chances against Spain.

## Religious rioting reported in Iraqi towns

Darius, Feb 11. Large-scale rioting have taken place in several towns in Iraq, including Mosul, in the north, and Karbala, south of Baghdad, according to reports reaching here. Karbala is the site of one of the holiest Shiite Muslim shrines.

Iraq has closed its border with Syria to prevent news of the upheaval and the crimes, its rulers are committing against Iraqi nationalists from reaching the outside world. Al-Thaurat, the semi-official Syrian newspaper added.

Yesterday the Iraqi Ministry of the Interior announced that a Syrian agent had tried to blow up the shrine in Karbala at the height of a pilgrimage by Shiite Muslims. Baghdad: The Iraqi Government denied it had closed its borders. —Reuter.

## Sri Lanka to lift emergency

Colombo, Feb 11. The six-year-old state of emergency in Sri Lanka will be lifted next week, Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike, the Prime Minister, said today when explaining to MPs of her Sri Lanka Freedom Party why she suddenly adjourned Parliament yesterday.

The adjournment to May 19 postpones a no-confidence vote in the Government's handling of widespread strikes last month. Elections are due later this year. —AP.

## CBI plan for tax relief

The Confederation of British Industry will ask Mr Hesley, the Chancellor, to raise the higher tax rate threshold from £5,000 to £8,000, reduce the basic rate from 35 to 30 per cent, and increase child allowances by 50 per cent. It has also discussed the sale of more Government shares in British Petroleum to finance the package.

## Floods cut services

Floods badly affected North Wales and Nottinghamshire and disrupted road and rail services in many other parts of the country. At Llandudno Junction a lifeboat travelled along the A55 to assist families cut off in their homes.

## £130m aid for Belfast

The Government may spend up to £130m in the next five years to halt the decline of inner Belfast. Half the £130m homes require renovation and there are 13,000 on the housing waiting list.

## Britain and U S try again on Rhodesia

Britain and the United States have decided to make another attempt at reaching a constitutional solution in Rhodesia. They have been encouraged by results of a meeting between Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, and Mr Smith. Page 4

## Two trainers fined

The Jockey Club stewards have taken a firm line against the use of anabolic steroids by fining two trainers, David Morley and David Gandolfo, and banning the four horses involved until the end of the season. Page 16.

## India in command

India took control on a good pitch on the first day of the final Test match against England at Bombay. Gavaskar, 103 not out, and Patel (83) helped them to 261 for four wickets by the close Page 15.

## Doctors on strike

Doctors and dentists in Hannover staged a one-day strike in protest against plans by the West German Government to cut back on health service costs. Page 3.

## Second readings

Among three backbench Bills that had unopposed second readings in the Commons was one on the use of minibuses by schools, churches, and other social welfare bodies, and another raising the age limit for the use of firearms. Parliamentary report, page 20.

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HOME NEWS

# GLC responds to Government call for help and incentives for small industries in inner cities

From Christopher Warman and John Young

The Greater London Council has already responded to the call on Wednesday by Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, for help and incentives to small industries in Britain's inner cities.

Mr. Norman Howard, chairman of the council's planning committee, said yesterday that he had asked for a report on the feasibility of providing loans to help firms to keep going and to expand, particularly in the Greater London areas that have been suffering most from dereliction and deprivation.

He said at the "Save Our Cities" conference, sponsored jointly by *The Sunday Times* and the Gulbenkian Foundation, that if it was established that the council had the powers to grant loans in that way it could give an important incentive to industry to get going in the inner areas and thus provide jobs in the high unemployment areas of London.

Mr. Howard added that the council would examine the possibility of operating an industrial development bank which

would be able to offer long-term loans of up to 15 years. One of the difficulties in the past had been that industrialists could obtain short-term loans only in the City.

The schemes, if they were practicable, would start with a modest fund of about £10m.

Mr. Howard said that the council was also planning an industrial development agency which would cut across borough boundaries and define a concerted policy for the industrial future of London. It would include local government officials, Whitehall officials and industrial representatives. "It is vital that we have one policy for London," he said. "There are 22 boroughs and we cannot afford to have 22 policies."

The lack of an agreed policy to halt urban decay became painfully obvious at the conference. Delegates representing central government, local government and a broad range of national and local pressure groups found themselves in constant disagreement and there were frequent interruptions.

Mr. Simon Jenkins, editor of the *Evening Standard*, said that

a classic case of bureaucratic blindness was that of St. Agnes Place, in Lambeth, where 200 policemen had been needed to enforce a simple local planning decision to demolish a street of houses. Part of the solution, he said, lay in persuading organizations that wielded great power over our cities to accept a degree of impotence.

But when Mr. Jenkins suggested that private enterprise as well as community action might have a part to play in reviving decayed areas, he encountered bitter opposition.

The conference, which ends today, has established three main attitudes. The first, expressed by both Mr. Shore and his Conservative predecessor, Mr. Peter Walker, is that only central government has the means, but that it will demand much greater control over how the money is spent.

The second is that local authorities feel they deserve greater freedom to deal with issues about which they know more than Whitehall. The third view is that of the community groups, who insist that only neighbourhood action and involvement by residents will produce results.

# £130m plan to renew Belfast city centre

From Martin Huckerby Belfast

The Government may spend up to £130m in the next five years to try to reverse the decline of inner Belfast and to meet the city's housing and environmental needs.

That strategy is in line with the Government's new policy of seeking to revive inner city areas throughout the United Kingdom, but Belfast is unusual because it is probably the only city in the country where the amount of money available has no real limit.

While cities like Liverpool and Glasgow have such intense difficulties that whatever money is available will be quickly swallowed up, the difficulties in Belfast are not likely to be financial.

Mr. Ray Carter, Under-Secretary of State, Northern Ireland, said confidently in Belfast yesterday: "If we show signs of real success here I do not think money is going to be a problem."

About ten thousand houses have been bricked up and most of them are to be demolished; half of the city's 123,000 homes need repair or complete renovation; more than 13,000 people are on the housing waiting list.

A steering group, with representatives from the city council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, has been established under Mr. Carter's chairmanship to coordinate public services to handle the new drive.

Mr. Carter said he hoped to make swift progress by nominating housing action areas, of which there were potentially more than 60 in the city. Two such areas have already been designated.

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Sir Harold and Lady Wilson arriving for a visit last night at the London home of Lady Falkender.

# Derailed truck sent for nuclear safety check

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

A derailed railway truck was sent for examination at a nuclear power station yesterday because it might have been contaminated when it left the rails on Gloucester and fell on its side.

The truck was carrying a 50-ton container, inside which was a flask used for transporting radioactive material from a nuclear establishment at Wylfa, Anglesey, to the Berkeley power station, in Gloucestershire.

At the time of the derailment in the goods yard at Horton Road, Gloucester, the container

was being sent back to Anglesey for refilling.

The Central Electricity Generating Board said the container, which had steel walls 1 1/2 in thick, was not damaged.

The truck sent to the power station for a check was one of six wagons that were derailed. Workmen spent more than 12 hours repairing the line.

The CEB said: "There was no danger. The container was empty apart from a residue of water. Containers of this sort travel regularly on BR and strict safety precautions are taken."

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# Callaghan remark terrorism irk the I

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

The Irish Government responded angrily yesterday to criticism by Mr. Callaghan, of Ireland's refusal to sign the new European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

After a Cabinet meeting had discussed remarks made by the British Prime Minister on Thursday that the British Government wanted maximum pressure brought on Ireland to sign the convention, the Irish Government stated tersely that its determination to deal with terrorism "is well known and needs no further elaboration". Ministers have not tried to hide their anger at Mr. Callaghan's statement.

There is a widespread belief that his remarks were prompted partly by the refusal of Ireland to withdraw its torture case at the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

British pressure is unlikely to change the Irish position. The Dublin Government before it could sign the convention there would have to be a change in the Irish Constitution, which could be done only through a referendum.

Mr. Callaghan had recently been introduced for terrorist offences, the Government said,

and the new C Jurisdiction Act sort of thing the c seeking to achieve

Mr. Michael frontbench spo foreign affairs fo

He said it wa inconsistent of Government to b on Ireland to be another conventio themselves have their lack of sup

Mr. O'Kennedy Mr. Mason, the Bri of State for Nor for his gravity i

Provisional IRA from the contin republic's case at Belfast bomb: Tw slightly injured la a bomb exploded the docks area of

A boy aged eigh hurt by a shot a mean burst into Dunlambert Drive men pushed thro door when it wa the woman of the said. Her husband

scared, assessment living room door one of the gunme

# Attempt to end dissension among Peace People

From a Staff Reporter Belfast

Peace feelers were put out yesterday in an attempt to end the dissension that has affected the Peace People organization in Northern Ireland.

The move came from the Catholic Andersonstown and Falls areas of west Belfast; it was their criticism of the attacks on the churches by leaders of the Peace People that first led to suggestions that the movement could be in danger of splitting.

The two groups said yesterday that despite the public differences the difficulties of fighting the bombings and the

killings were so concerned enough together. They di

A Belfast man, yesterday while he companions were a break-in at a station at Spruce road between Lis together, south of man was killed: close range. The filling station, a beaten up during and is in hospital

Army bomb di successfully defla bombs in village viance and there bomb alerts.

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# Planners asked to care for environment

Planners should pay more attention to the effects of big schemes on the environment, a Department of the Environment report said yesterday.

Bad decisions sometimes led to large compensatory payments having to be made from public funds.

The report accused planning authorities of failing to examine proposals for large-scale development in sufficient depth.

Important environmental questions were too often given an examination that was super-

ficial, belated, hasty or non-existent.

Three cases, a chemical works, a large steel complex and a water project, were detailed in the report by Mr. John Cadlow, former Under Secretary at the Department of the Environment, and Mr. Geoffrey Thirlwall, a planning consultant.

The unnamed chemical plant, they said, was now the target of a strong public campaign because of its effect on surrounding areas, including farmland.

If the case for discontinu-

is made out, this will prove to have been a very expensive decision in the first place."

The report said that studies of the environmental impact of the steelworks were carried out only after the project's first phase had been approved. If the project now had to be halted, a great deal of abortive work would have been done.

Although opposition to large projects was increasing, the report said, fear of obstruction should not be an excuse for not adequately informing the public.

A steering group, with representatives from the city council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, has been established under Mr. Carter's chairmanship to coordinate public services to handle the new drive.

Mr. Carter said he hoped to make swift progress by nominating housing action areas, of which there were potentially more than 60 in the city. Two such areas have already been designated.

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# Commission for NHS is proposed

Principals in McKinsey and Company, the management consultants who played a large part in the reorganization of the National Health Service, argue that the service should be run by a commission.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on the NHS they say that the commission should have regional offices and that the present 14 regional health authorities should be eliminated as a separate statutory and management tier.

The idea, presented in the name of Mr. John Banham, does not, it is argued, represent second thoughts on the company's earlier work. The present organization of management, integrating hospital, community health and family doctor services, is accepted as sound.

Mr. Banham yesterday dismissed the charge made by Mr. Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, that the firm's idea was to "tax the sick on a money or your life" basis.

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# New Bill revives abortion campaign

By David Leigh Political Staff

The opening shots in the latest renewal of the campaign over abortion were fired yesterday. A private member's Bill was published with the support of prominent anti-abortionists and the opposition of Mr. Ennals, the Cabinet minister concerned.

Labour supporters of abortion say the Bill would prohibit up to 40,000 of the abortions now carried out.

Anti-abortionists who support the Bill also intend to use its relatively minor amendments as a vehicle for an attempt to raise once again the whole question of the grounds on which women are allowed abortions. They want them restricted, and there is now a long history of parliamentary dispute on the issue.

The Abortion (Amendment) Bill, introduced by Mr. William Benyon, Conservative MP for

Buckingham, is supported by Mr. Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool. It comes up for second reading on February 25.

Labour's abortionists, led by Mrs. Renée Short, MP for Wolverhampton, North-east, will oppose the Bill, as will the Government, which is allowing a conscience vote.

The Bill amends the Abortion Act, 1967, by prohibiting advice bureaux from sending women to clinics which they have not been financially "or other" agreement.

The Bill also cuts the pregnancy period during which abortions are allowed from 26 weeks to 20, unless a child would be born seriously disabled, or the mother would be gravely and permanently injured. It allows only doctors who have been qualified for five years to authorize abortions.

A woman's general prac-

itioner would have to be notified of abortions if the woman consented. Conscientious objection by medical staff would be allowed "on religious, ethical or other grounds".

The Bill, which seeks to enact many of the recommendations of the controversial Select Committee on Abortion, whose pro-abortion members walked out in protest, would not apparently require parents of girls under 16 to be present during abortion advice.

Mr. Ennals, the Secretary of State for Social Services, says in a letter to Mr. David Steele, the Liberal leader: "Little doubt is served by introducing a complex amending Bill which may cause confusion and uncertainty for the many doctors and health professionals who believe that the present Act is for the most part a very good one."

Parliament in providing a responsible and civilized service for women in need."

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A steering group, with representatives from the city council and the



HOME NEWS

# Protesting identities rl eggs at Keith

Our Correspondent  
... bombs and eggs were  
... at Sir Keith Joseph.  
... responsible for policy and  
... as he arrived to  
... students at Essex Uni-  
... yesterday. He was hit  
... back by some flour, but  
... dressed about 500 stu-  
...  
... had been invited to speak  
... moral and material  
... for capitalism" the  
... the Conservative Asso-  
... He said later that the  
... in was "not worthy of a  
... at all".  
... all I gave plenty of  
... questioners afterwards  
... examine me he said,  
... that the reception was  
... the five worst he had  
... in about 81 meetings  
... ast two years.  
... Sir Keith arrived at  
... chime meeting he was  
... with shouts including  
... "and racist" by about  
... 500 protesters crowd-  
... ing the lecture theatre  
...  
... Wednesday, the Essex Stu-  
... Union issued a statement  
... ing itself from the visit  
... it clear that Sir  
... presence was not wel-  
... the union organized yes-  
... terday. Sir Keith said  
... "I assumed civilized  
... it would occur."  
... and spoken for half an  
... hour, attempting to put



Sir Keith Joseph competing with hecklers at Essex University yesterday.

his case for free enterprise and  
competitive capitalism.  
"The free enterprise system  
that is capitalism is the neces-  
sary but not the sufficient  
condition for freedom—there is  
no real freedom in any country  
where there is not also free  
enterprise", he said.  
During questions he com-  
plained when some students  
attempted to broaden the  
debate to include Northern  
Ireland.

# Mr Jones puts case for tax cuts

Stephen Thomas  
Staff  
... Jones, general secre-  
... the Transport and  
... Workers' Union and  
... ical architect of the  
... with the Government,  
... reminded the Chan-  
... but the unions want  
... ax reductions" in the  
... det, which is widely  
... to be presented on  
... 9. Any recommenda-  
... the TUC makes, Mr  
... id, will take tax cuts  
... will depend on the  
... resumed meeting  
... C economic committee  
... k, but the Chancellor  
... redly said that a satis-  
... agreement on wages is  
... a condition for  
... at reductions.  
... said a "Stoke-on-  
... 'Had the unions not  
... 1 in the way we did  
... ast couple of years,  
... ould have faced very  
... le difficulties than we  
... 'The unions were  
... d to keep the country  
... the knowledge that  
... ng standards and con-  
... r workers were part  
... gave a warning that  
... of essential public  
... was a false economy.

"We must maintain and im-  
prove our essential services in  
public transport, health, edu-  
cation, cleaning, or we will  
set in motion a downward spiral  
of falling efficiency totally  
harmful to our industrial  
success."  
Industrial regeneration de-  
pended on a well maintained  
framework of necessary public  
services. It was right that non-  
productive costs of administra-  
tion should be kept down to a  
justifiable level, but the ex-  
traordinary cost of the govern-  
ment must not be further  
diluted.  
Mr Jones concentrated most  
of his speech on the need for  
public transport. "There is a  
dangerous tendency", he said,  
to regard public transport as  
an expensive luxury, and one  
area where the Government can  
cut back on public spending  
without too much damage. This  
is a mistaken approach, and  
one which could jeopardize  
economic recovery.  
Mr Jones gave cautious sup-  
port to the public service  
unions, who are holding a con-  
ference on March 22 in Central  
Hall, Westminster, on the  
question of the social wage.  
Unemployment "scar": Unem-  
ployment at its present level  
was a "scar" on society, Mr

WEST EUROPE AND OVERSEAS

# Doctors go on strike in protest over Bonn health cuts plan

From Dan van der Var  
Bonn, Feb 11  
Doctors and dentists in  
Hanover refused to treat  
patients today at the start of  
a nationwide campaign against  
Government plans to limit the  
rise in health costs.  
Their professional organiza-  
tions, the German Medical Asso-  
ciation and the Dental Associa-  
tion, issued a statement saying  
that they would not accept a  
per cent response from 700  
doctors and 400 dentists to a  
call to close their practices for  
the day. They cooperated in  
special arrangements for emer-  
gency cases.  
Another 500 doctors and 230  
dentists plan another one-day  
protest on Tuesday in the  
Oldenburg area, also in Lower  
Saxony. The second stage of  
the campaign will involve selec-  
tive stoppages in various  
regions of several days at a  
time.  
If there is still no change in  
the Government's cost-curing  
scheme, doctors and dentists  
plan to refuse for one month  
to treat patients insured under  
the Government-supervised but  
privately run medical insur-  
ance scheme, which covers for  
all but the wealthiest. Treat-  
ment will not be denied, but  
the full fee will be charged  
direct to the patient.  
The next stage would involve  
a permanent boycott of one  
present medical insurance com-  
panies and the creation of a  
parallel network of non-offici-  
ally making insurance societies  
by doctors and dentists.  
Under the Government plan,  
which is still being worked  
out, average length of stay in  
hospital, considerably longer  
than in most if not all com-  
parable countries, in favour  
of out-patient treatment. It  
also envisaged prescribing  
and to limit rises in doctors'  
fees to the level justified by  
general economic develop-  
ments.  
At the root of these con-

siderations is the enormous  
strain on West Germany's  
social security system caused  
by the economic recession and  
changes in the demographic  
pattern.  
The doctors and dentists,  
beneficiaries of a system which  
encourages them to over-  
work, overeat and over-  
prescribe, enjoy one of the  
highest remunerations of all  
professions in a country where  
health is a national obsession.  
Doctors and patients have until  
now been able to convert each  
other with the slogan, "the  
insurance will pay".  
But this is no longer possible  
as costs start to outstrip the  
insurance funds, which have  
been badly hurt by unemploy-  
ment, now at one million, cuts  
in overtime and widespread  
short-time working.  
A rough calculation shows  
that the West Germans are  
spending £30,000 a year on  
health, or about £450 for every  
man, woman and child.  
West Germany has about  
123,000 doctors, one for every  
500 citizens—the highest con-  
centration in the world. About  
60,000 work in hospitals and  
10,000 in the public service. Of  
the remaining 53,000 private  
practitioners, 49,000 treat  
patients on the normal medical  
insurance.  
The average annual income  
of this last group, after deduc-  
tion of all practice expenses and  
before tax, ranges from £41,000  
to £58,000 a year in fees from  
the insurance firms alone.  
Average incomes of dentists are  
between 20 and 25 per cent  
higher.  
In the present dispute, which  
has already been marked by  
some very immoderate language  
on both sides, the doctors argue  
that their freedom to determine  
appropriate treatment, to use  
the latest technology and thus  
to retain the confidence of their  
patients, will be damaged.

# Government is accused over EEC legislation

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent  
The Government was accused  
yesterday of not keeping Parlia-  
ment informed about proposed  
EEC legislation.  
The complaint was made by  
the House of Lords Select Com-  
mittee on the European Com-  
munities, which said the Govern-  
ment should accept its responsi-  
bility to keep Parliament and  
the public informed of progress  
of major EEC draft instruments  
after they have been reported  
on and debated.  
"At present, once a report  
has been issued from this com-  
mittee, and a debate held, the  
subject disappears from view,  
and the committee, the House,  
and indeed the public, includ-  
ing interested bodies who want  
to know the outcome of nego-  
tiations held in secret within  
the Council of Ministers, are  
left in ignorance of the future  
progress on the subject", the  
report states.  
More emphatically, the com-  
mittee demands much more in-  
formation about the application  
of legislation which it has  
examined.  
Mr Arafat had spoken to  
him about "a more flexible  
attitude" by the PLO on this  
issue, and had referred to  
consequences of accepting a  
Palestinian entity which is  
different from what has been  
requested before."

# Dr Waldheim fails to convince Mr Allon

From Eric Marsden  
Jerusalem, Feb 11  
Dr Kury Waldheim, the  
United Nations Secretary-  
General, today repeated his  
view that the attitude of the  
Palestine Liberation Organiza-  
tion to the Middle East conflict  
had changed, but admitted that  
he had been unable to con-  
vince the Israeli Government  
Minister, said later that he had  
not been convinced by Dr  
Waldheim's report that the  
PLO was becoming more  
moderate. Israel was prepared  
to hold talks with Palestinians,  
but not with the PLO.  
At a press conference ending  
his two-day visit to Jerusalem,  
Dr Waldheim was questioned  
about his disclosure that Mr  
Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader,  
had told him that the PLO  
was prepared to accept a small  
state based on the West Bank  
and Gaza which constituted a  
de facto recognition of Israel.  
Dr Waldheim had not seen  
reports from Damascus that  
the PLO had accepted a PLO  
spokesman.  
Mr Arafat had spoken to  
him about "a more flexible  
attitude" by the PLO on this  
issue, and had referred to  
consequences of accepting a  
Palestinian entity which is  
different from what has been  
requested before."

# Voters back Sadat anti-riot decree

From Our Correspondent  
Cairo, Feb 11  
President Sadat has won the  
support of Egyptian voters in a  
near unanimous endorsement  
of his draft decree to preserve  
the country's security against  
demonstrators, rioters and  
saboteurs.  
Major-General Muhammad  
Nabawi Ismail, the Deputy  
Minister of the Interior, an-  
nounced today that 99.42  
of the voters had said "yes" to  
Mr Sadat's measures in yester-  
day's referendum. The turnout  
was of 96.69 per cent of the  
electorate.  
Under Mr Sadat's measures  
demonstrators, rioters,  
saboteurs, members of para-  
military groups and others  
engaged in anti-state activities  
will be punished by hard  
labour for life.  
Severe penalties are also  
provided for anyone who  
provokes a riot or who  
participates in a riot.  
The measures are designed  
to prevent any recurrence of  
last month's riots, against food  
price increases, in which about  
80 people were killed and  
about 800 injured.  
Political observers in Cairo  
believe that the landslide sup-  
port for Mr Sadat's decree is a  
clear indication of the people's  
confidence in his policies.  
The President has repeatedly  
acknowledged that Egypt is  
facing acute economic prob-  
lems but has pledged to solve  
them.  
He has said that the riots on  
January 18 and 19 were part  
of a plot to overthrow him and  
plunge the country into a  
bloodbath. He blamed the  
Soviet Union for the violence  
in which public and private  
property was damaged.  
The heavy vote also said that  
the result of the referendum  
was a defeat for the leftists  
who had urged the voters to  
reject the presidential  
measures.  
The leftist Progressive  
Unionist Party has said that  
measures outlawing demonstra-  
tions and strikes have been set  
down in general terms without  
adequate explanation which  
will make "legal political ac-  
tivities risky".  
The semi-official newspaper  
Al-Ahram reported today that  
two women university students  
were arrested in Cairo yester-  
day while distributing leaflets  
calling for a boycott of the  
referendum. Al-Ahram said  
that they were members of a  
clandestine communist organi-  
zation and had been sought by  
the police.  
Two members of the leftist  
party were also arrested in a  
Nile Delta village accused of  
inciting voters to reject the  
decree.

# pool men nded over store find

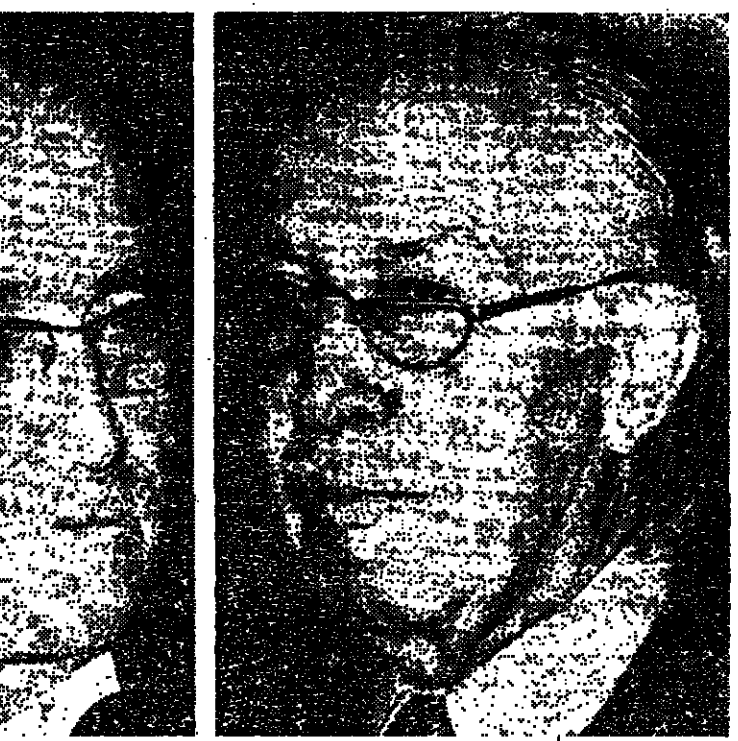
en appeared at Liver-  
... Court yesterday  
... arising from the  
... of a bomb store in a  
... suburban house last  
... thony Clarke, aged 29,  
... strick Drive, Norris  
... id Joseph McDonagh,  
... of Bristol Close, An-  
... th Liverpool, were  
... in custody for a  
...  
... re appeared on three  
...  
... enshaw Hall, Liverpool,  
... y 2 he caused by an  
... incendiary device on  
... library of endanger life  
... serious injury to  
...  
... ally possessing 10lb of  
... th explosive, seven live  
... eters, 17 explosive  
... devices, 3lb of sodium  
... and various other items,  
... wrist watches and elec-  
...  
... ing a 38 special Smith  
... son revolver and 24  
... 38 ammunition with  
... endanger life.  
... McDonagh faces two  
...  
... nowing Mr Clarke to be  
... an arrestable offence, he  
... threat to impede his  
...  
... ving information which  
... he believed might be  
... assistance in securing  
... detention of Mr Clarke,  
... been involved in the  
... of an act of terrorism,  
... without reasonable  
... disclosure that information  
... able.

# Man put on probation in unlawful sex case

Judge Hines, QC, placed a  
father aged 39 on probation at  
the Central Criminal Court yester-  
day after the man had  
admitted having intercourse  
with a girl of 15. And he fined  
a youth, aged 17, £75 after he  
admitted having intercourse  
with a girl aged 13, said to be  
of mature appearance.  
Up to two years' imprison-  
ment may be imposed in cases  
of intercourse with girls under  
16, but for the third time in  
four days judges have taken  
action that has led Mrs Mary  
Whitehouse to accuse them of  
"suspending the law". She  
has complained that the rate of  
consent is being lured by the  
law's defect.  
Alexander John Hatch, aged  
39, of Hollydale Road, Peck-  
ham, London, who pleaded  
guilty to one offence of in-  
tercourse with a girl under 16,  
on probation after Judge Hines  
was told of his medical and  
psychiatric background.  
Mr Roger Henderson, for the  
prosecution, said that when the  
girl called at Mr Hatch's house  
he invited her in, plied her  
with gin and got her drunk.  
Medical examination showed  
that she had indulged in sexual  
activity previously, but that  
was not with the accused.  
Mr David H. Evans, for the  
defence, asked the Judge to  
take an exceptional course as  
Mr Hatch had been ill and  
undergoing hospital treatment.  
In the second case Leslie  
Francis, of Twicken Road,  
Bromley, Kent, admitted inter-  
course with a girl of 13. The  
prosecution said it was with the  
girl's consent. The offence was  
repeated on about a dozen  
occasions.  
Judge Hines said it seemed  
the gap in terms of years was  
greater than that in maturity.  
Lord Justice Scarman said  
in the Court of Appeal on Tues-  
day that a man of 21 jailed for  
indecent assault against a girl  
of 13 should not have been  
sent to prison. "This happens  
almost every Saturday night  
over the country", he said.  
At the Central Criminal  
Court on Thursday Judge  
Clarke, QC, in dealing with two  
similar cases, said to the  
accused: "It seems to me  
rather a pity that people like  
you should ever appear at the  
Central Criminal Court."

# Hopeful reply from Russia on fish rights

By Our Diplomatic  
Correspondent  
The Soviet Union has told  
Britain that it is prepared to  
negotiate on fishing rights  
within the European Com-  
munity's new 200-mile limit and  
that Brussels would be an  
acceptable place for the talks  
to be held. Negotiations are  
expected to open in the next  
few days.  
This is seen as an encour-  
aging response, given Moscow's  
refusal to recognize the Com-  
munity.  
Britain, as president of the  
EEC, has already told East Ger-  
many and Poland which of their  
vessels may fish in Community  
waters, and licences will be  
issued.  
The Russians were informed  
that 27 trawlers could come in  
but not more than 17 at any  
time. The arrangement came  
into force on Monday but a  
period of grace is being  
allowed.



Captivity ends for Señor Oriol (left) after 63 days and for General Vallaescusa after 18 days.

# Inventor seizes eight hostages

Helsinki, Feb 11.—A gunman  
described as a frustrated  
inventor today seized the  
remaining three of his original  
eight hostages and surrendered  
to the police after the authori-  
ties agreed to accept his inven-  
tion, a "turbine accelerator".  
He seized the eight people  
yesterday when he entered the  
offices of the Finnish Inventors'  
Foundation but let four of them  
go almost immediately. He  
released a fifth early today.—  
Reuters.

# Political time bomb set in Spain

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, Feb 11  
The Spanish Communist  
Party set the fuse of a political  
time bomb here today by for-  
mally applying for legal recog-  
nition.  
The application was made  
possible by a one-day-old de-  
cree which shifts the respon-  
sibility for determining the  
legality of political parties  
from the executive to the ju-  
dicial branch of the government.  
Under the decree the In-  
terior Ministry must act on the  
application within 10 days,  
either accepting the party as a  
legally inscribed "association"  
or passing the relevant file to  
the Supreme Court if the Cab-  
inet has any doubts about the  
possibility of granting legal  
status to the party.  
The court has a maximum of  
30 days, from the time it  
receives the file and the  
written argument of the In-  
terior Ministry, in which to rule  
on the matter.  
Since the question of legal-  
ization of the Communist Party  
is the most explosive political  
issue of the post-Franco era,  
the Ministry will certainly for-  
ward the request to the courts  
in this case. That means that  
by March 31 (40 days exclud-  
ing Sundays and holidays  
according to Spanish legal cus-  
tom) the political time bomb  
will go off.  
If the High Court rules in  
favour of the Communist Party  
petition, an immediate and pos-  
sibly violent reaction can be  
expected from the extreme  
right. Legality for the  
Communist Party is held by  
many right-wingers to be com-  
pletely intolerable.  
If the court finds that the  
Communist Party is illegal, as  
it well might under the exist-  
ing, somewhat ambiguous law  
on political associations, the  
finding can be expected to pro-  
voke widespread disillusion  
among the legal parties of the  
left and a more militant atti-  
tude from the Communist  
Party and parties to the left of  
it.  
Despite the danger, Señor  
Adolfo Suárez, the Prime  
Minister, undoubtedly felt  
obliged to resolve the question  
of legality for the Communist  
Party before the parliamentary  
elections which are now  
expected to take place on or  
about June 1. Without the de-  
cree his hands were tied since  
the Communists, the Socialists  
and many other parties refused  
to apply for legal recognition.  
The legalization of all polit-  
ical parties, including the  
Communists, is one of the con-  
ditions which virtually every  
party of the centre and left  
has insisted upon before the  
elections can be held.

# Burglar who killed widow jailed for 15 years

Roy Abdul Kelly, aged 37,  
described as a professional  
burglar who carried a knife  
as the tool of his trade, was  
sentenced at Bristol Crown  
Court yesterday to a total of  
15 years' imprisonment.  
The knife was used to gain  
entry to homes he burgled, it  
was stated, but on the night  
of September 13 last he used  
it to stab Mrs Winifred Cole-  
man, aged 78, a widow, through  
the heart in her basement flat  
at Clarendon Villas, Widcombe  
Hill, Bath.  
Mr Kelly was also said to  
have been carrying his knife  
when he attempted to rape a

# Two men die as train hits van

A van driver and a bystander  
died yesterday when a  
passenger train struck a van on  
an unmarked level crossing  
near Canton, on the York to  
Scarborough line, eight miles  
from Scarborough.  
It is thought that one man  
had got out of the van to open  
the far crossing gate, but the  
vehicle struck before it had time  
to get across.

# Woman killed in Yorkshire crash

A woman was killed and Mrs  
Ann Liddell-Grainger, wife of  
Mr David Liddell-Grainger, who  
is a member of the Queen's  
Bodyguard for Scotland (the  
Royal Company of Archers), was  
hurt yesterday in a road  
accident at Boroughbridge,  
North Yorkshire.  
The dead woman was her  
companion, Miss Catherine  
Fahy, from New Zealand.

# 80 sheep losses

worrying sheep cost  
farmers about £100,000 the  
Welsh division of  
National Farmers' Union  
yesterday. The union  
stiff penalties to be  
on owners who let  
25 roam.

# Arafat help for election campaign of Mr Bhutto

From Our Correspondent  
Rawalpindi, Feb 11  
Mr Yasser Arafat, the Pales-  
tine Liberation Organization  
(PLO) leader, who has just  
closed a three-day visit to Paki-  
stan, has helped the election  
campaign of Mr Bhutto, the  
Prime Minister.  
The opposition had claimed  
that Mr Bhutto's foreign policy  
had resulted in Pakistan losing  
the support of the Muslim  
states. But in a joint com-  
munique issued at the end of  
Mr Arafat's visit today, the PLO  
secretary "expressed his appre-  
ciation of the far reaching

# Second day of fighting in Beirut suburbs

From Robert Fisk  
Beirut, Feb 11  
The Syrian Army is concen-  
trating its attention on the  
suburbs of Beirut where, for  
the second consecutive day,  
Palestinian guerrillas and  
Syrian regular troops of the  
Arab League are fighting.  
The fighting is continuing  
at the Sabra Palestinian  
refugee camp near Beirut air-  
port, heavy mortar fire fell near  
the main road and tanks could  
be heard manoeuvring near  
the slum dwellings  
measures taken by Mr Bhutto  
for the social and economic bet-  
terment of the brotherly peoples  
of Pakistan".  
Mr Arafat also recorded his  
appreciation of Mr Bhutto's  
support of the Arab and Pales-  
tinian cause and his vital con-  
tribution in mobilizing world  
support for the Palestinian  
issue.  
Mr Bhutto, who is engaged in  
a gruelling campaign for the  
elections on March 7, spent  
several hours in his home at  
Larkana yesterday and on  
Wednesday in talks with Mr  
Arafat.



# Britain and America agree to try new initiative on Rhodesia

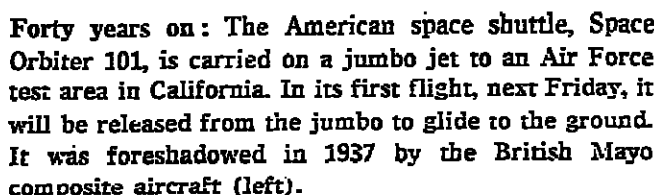
## Mr Botha to be Pretoria Foreign Minister

## Dissident held for crime, wife told

Dr. Orlov, who heads a group scrutinizing Soviet fulfillment of human rights pledges in the 1975 Helsinki accords, was detained yesterday after returning from a week in the country. Tass news agency suggested he was being held because he

## held for crime, wife told

According to his wife, the summons arrived after her husband fled Moscow fearing arrest following a press attack on himself and Alexander Ginsburg, another prominent dissident. Mr



## Catholic task force for South Africa

## e, wife told

Paris: Rudolf Nureyev, the ballet dancer, who defected 16 years ago, has been trying for 14 years to get a visa for his mother, aged 72, to visit him, he said in a radio interview.—  
 Reuter.

## sk force frica

## Bloodbath victor

The council has been meeting since Monday to consider replacements for General Teferi and six top members of the Dergue killed in the Grand Palace shooting.—Reuter.

## Feud splits committee in search of assassins

Dr Mansour Khalid, becomes

### Snipers kill off dogs

Jakarta, Feb. 11.—More than a thousand dogs have been killed by snipers in the West Sumatra district of Solok in an anti-rabies drive.

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# A ghost garden

by Frank Tuohy

The biographer Bamford Chetwynd immediately chose the best room in the house as study and work-room. Its window overlooked the entire garden, as far as a stream lined with water-lilies and alder-trees and the white wooden bridge that led to the village. The room was apart, but it was not isolated. Susan Vincent, the biographer's life-long friend, was a dedicated gardener, and as she bent over newly planted pentstemons or encouraged *clematis tangutica* to ascend a stone wall, she would be able to hear the tapping of the typewriter. In the stone-flagged kitchen, she would hear the heavy tread of the biographer in the room overhead, the footsteps pacing to and fro in search of the phrases that would bring months of research to an ordered conclusion.

In fact, Midsomer Cottage was Susan Vincent's property. Bamford Chetwynd had published a string of books, all excellently reviewed in the "quality" Sunday newspapers. These were devoted to the lives of redoubtable French ladies, Madame de Maintenon, Madame de Sevigné and Madame de Staël—"Enough madams", their New York publisher remarked, "to run a whole street in New Orleans." Even with American sales, however, the total royalties were hardly sufficient to keep the author in cigars and brandy. It was Susan Vincent, sole daughter of a successful brickmaker, who had provided the financial background for all this creative effort.

Throughout the years she had listened for the typewriter and hearing it, had been content, knowing that dear "Bam" was at work again. When Susan Vincent told people that she had bought the Wiltshire house because she longed to create a garden of her own, her friends guessed that this was only one reason. In recent years Bam had become increasingly addicted to the more accessible forms of London society, putting in regular appearances at publishers' parties, meetings of the PEN club, Arts Council receptions and lectures at the Royal Society of Literature. Wearing a cloak, a velvet suit and a fedora hat, the biographer was a conspicuous figure. Oldish, much-educated young men, many of whom were called Simon, had come to regard Bamford Chetwynd as something between a joke and a cult-object. "Life-enhancing," they said, "Bam's so life-enhancing." Just keeping life enhanced had cost Susan Vincent a good deal of money, and the strain had even begun to tell on Bamford Chetwynd: more and more, the dashing Regency Buck of past years had come to suggest a retired jockey too fond of the bottle. The force of the biographer's attack had always been mitigated by shortness of stature. A devoted friend, an Oxford don, had once compared Bam to "a bust of Radcliffe Hall, walking."

Vincent was a gentle creature, tall and stooping with large strong hands and an odd, wild glint in her eyes. Looking after Bam no longer gave her sufficient purpose in life, and seeing the garden at Midsomer Cottage for the first time, she had felt a life of the heart. The countryside around was fertile, the trees in the park land grew tall and the stream had deposited centuries of rich dark soil. The local people were great gardeners, and from early summer their herbaceous borders shocked the retina with a violent clash of colours. Miss Vincent's plans were for something very different. She held *Cordoba* jekyll in high esteem, and Mrs. Fish, the goddess of "ground cover." But most of all she invoked Victoria Sackville-West of Sissinghurst.

By autumn, house and garden were hers. Still in the London flat, she started ordering plants from the best nurseries. A stroke of fortune took Bam to Paris for research. Rejoicing in her solitude, Miss Vincent got into her sports car and headed westward. She put up at the King's Arms in the nearest country town. When her packages arrived, she went to work in the garden, planting according to a plan she had drawn up on squared paper. The days were sunny, she worked well, and she was happy, laughing and talking to herself as she encouraged the tangled roots into the black loam. "Vita, Vita," she murmured to herself, "I honour you in my breeches and my observances." And she began to have visions of opening the garden to the public in a year or two's time, in aid of the District Nurses.

From the house during these still October days there emerged the constant sound of

start papering and painting. Miss Vincent, who got on well with men and liked their presence, took to making innumerable cups of Indian tea. During the next weeks she learnt a great deal about the lives of Sydney and Kevin. Kevin was a golden-haired young man whose body had been burnt by the summer sun. But his physical beauty was accompanied by a marked unease, and Miss Vincent found him frustrated and confessional. It turned out that Charlene, his wife, suffered from gynaecological complications which the village doctor refused to explain, considering the young couple too ignorant to understand.

But it was Sydney Woods who won Miss Vincent's heart. Sydney was forty, smaller than Kevin, and there was something compact and controlled about him that reminded Miss Vincent of her father the brickmaker. The physical world obeyed Sydney while twenty, she watched his paintbrush move silkily across doors and wainscoting. He seemed to know everything she needed to know at this time. After a little she began to rejoice in Sydney, as she rejoiced in the new house and the future garden.

There remained two problems to worry her. The first was that Sydney, too, was a great gardener. Whenever a new consignment of plants arrived, he stood beside her while she unpacked them.

"They'll never answer," he said. "Not in our soil." And to compensate for what he saw as her inevitable failure, he kept offering great clumps of delphinium and gold-dendro or the bulbs of dahlias, like the dry faeces of dogs. "They'll give you a proper show," he said. It was quite useless telling him about the white garden at Sissinghurst. The same thing happened with vegetables: his cabbages, the size of footballs, and his scarlet runners as sinewy as his own arms won prizes at the Flower Show every year. How could she explain to him that she and Bam, travellers in France and Italy, considered such prodigies to be entirely inedible?

Miss Vincent's second problem was that all this warmth and complicity must come to an end. Soon the house would be ready; soon there would be the delivery of the furniture and pictures, and after that the advent of Bam. Long ago Bam's friend Simon had helped them to find amusing nonsense at the London auctions, and some of these had turned out to be of value. They had bought gilded furniture, some Victoriana, and pictures by young painters who were now either dead or famous. On the day when the removal men had come and gone, Sydney and Kevin dropped in to help Miss Vincent tidy up. Sydney inspected everything in a bristling silence. He kept looking at her and his look was odd and disquieting. It seemed to involve pity, though she could not be sure of this. There was nothing she could say.

Kevin on the other hand was entirely fascinated, and she offered to give him a guided tour of the house. "Only for Charlene," he said. "I'd have liked to go in for this sort of line." As he was leaving, he talked more about Charlene, whose operation was to take place the following week. Miss Vincent felt a sudden sympathy for the young woman, who was reviving a childhood memory of Florry, an adored golden retriever whom her father had ordered to be put down. He was now in the hands of a drunken vet.

Bam arrived the following Saturday, brought down by Simon and his new friend, who were spending the weekend at a very grand house some thirty miles farther west. Kevin and his friend approved of Midsomer Cottage: they planned parties, *festes champêtres*, for the new garden in the summer.

This evening, while she was cooking Spanish omelettes, Miss Vincent found herself praying that Sydney would not choose the moment to put in an appearance. Of course he would be certain to confront Bam sooner or later, but she wanted something of the pleasure of these past weeks to be prolonged for yet another day. Sydney never set eyes on Bam. That night he was killed on his motor-bike at the corner where the lane from the village joined the main road. Mrs. Weller, the daily whom Miss Vincent had just found, arrived on Monday morning with her features set in dramatic gloom. Momentarily discomfited by the fact that Miss Vincent had already heard the news, Mrs. Weller looked around for something dissembling to say about Sydney: a newcomer to the village mustn't be allowed to get the upper hand.

"They say," she remarked loyally, "they say he was drunk. He and Mrs. Woods wasn't getting along too well." Miss Vincent turned round from the sink in tears. "Oh

Mrs. Weller," she said, "he was such a nice man."

She kept remembering Sydney through the idle days of winter, when there was little to do in the garden. The earth was quiet, full of promises for the spring. Though she trusted her own skills, there was always some doubt as to what would flourish, what would need cherishing, and what would die out without trace. In the upper room overlooking the garden, Bamford Chetwynd's biography of Madame Dudevant, otherwise known as Georges Sand, was proceeding well. Parcels of books arrived from the London Library, and the postman brought letters and photographs from distant collections. Meanwhile, the stream overflowed into the water garden and some of the new *Iris Kaempferi* were lost.

One day Kevin turned up. He was dying to tell Miss Vincent that Charlene and he had been accepted as adoptive parents of a little girl. Unfortunately that morning she was out shopping in the county town.

She returned to find Bam summing up and down in fury. "I told him to go about his business, whatever that might be," a cigar butt flew through the window into the sleeping garden. "We're not interested in having squalling brats around. Not content with spawning their own, the lower orders now take in other people's by-blows."

Susan Vincent was quite horrified. What would the whole village think? Then she reflected that, except for herself, no one, not even the Simons, had ever taken Bam seriously. The monocle, the fedora, the cloak had by now given way to National Health spectacles and jeans and sweaters from the Menswear at Marks and Spencer, yet the total impression remained gently ludicrous.

Spring came at last. Colour returned first to the willows along the stream. New shoots appeared in the flower-beds under the windows.

"I see you got a nice lot of daffs second," Mrs. Weller remarked. "They'll make a lovely show later on." "No, no, they're not daffodils. At least, they're the same family but special ones. I saw them first at Wisley."

Since Bamford Chetwynd had been around people had begun to look at Miss Vincent with kindly pity. "They seem just like ordinary daffs to me, dear, but you know best."

A few weeks later, Miss Vincent asked Mrs. Weller: "Were there daffodils here last year?"

"Not a thing. You remember I told you, those lot never planted a thing. Every-one passed comments."

Miss Vincent wrote to the bulb merchants, who denied the possibility of a mistake. By this time the garden was as full of bright yellow as the others in the village.

Bamford Chetwynd was scathing. "Daffodils always remind me of urine." The other kept her temper. "You mean dandelions." Bam snorted and returned to Mme Dudevant's affairs. By midsummer the garden was a total disaster: it looked like something off a Woolworth's calendar, or a picture to be cross-stitched on a tea-cosy. No sooner had puce aubretia and yellow alysium done their worst, than pillar-box red poppies hurt the eyes, clashing with the hard orange of marigolds. Delphiniums and dahlias were on the way. Among the vegetables, the carefully selected variety of french beans turned out to be scarlet runners, the courgettes swelled into vegetable marrows fit only for harvest festivals or ginger jam. Purple kohlrabi

produced a comment from Mrs. Weller: "You've a nice row of swedes there. Should see you right through the winter."

Susan Vincent resigned herself and tended these monstrosities diligently. She knew there was some disorder, some primal fault in the make-up of things, but she did not protest. Like herself, the garden was a prey to forces that she flinched from trying to understand. Sydney Woods had won her heart and was proclaiming his triumph: everything was just as he would have wanted it.

Simon, passing through with a new friend, said: "It's quite wonderful, Vince. It's all so marvellous —". He stopped short, since the word he was about to utter was no longer at all fashionable. His friend Rodney, a hairdresser from Mircham, was less inhibited.

"It's so camp, Vince," he said. "You've got the first camp garden I."

A year had passed since her first meeting with Sydney, and he seemed to be always closer to her. It seemed as though the house had been blessed: dripping taps had righted themselves; a window, found to be stuck, opened easily the following morning. Then he came nearer still. Sometimes in the garden she smelled smoke. It was neither a bonfire nor the unmistakable whiff of Bamford Chetwynd's cigars: she recognized the Playor's Weights that Sydney always used. And other smells followed: the tweed of his old jacket, the sweat of his buttoned undersweater—unlike Kevin he had never stripped down to work.

Miss Vincent knew well that odours are among the most frequent of hallucinations. But now to them were added snatches of pop music from unseen radios, and the brisk

whine of a Black and Decker drill. She would dart from room to room in search of him, and then rest, with her eyes closed, her forehead against the door-jamb.

She wondered whether she should consult a doctor. This meant going outside the village, and she was fearful of arousing Bam's suspicions. As it happened, the biographer was in a creative fury: Madame Dudevant had the unfortunate habit of falling for young men; in each case, new evidence had to be found to show that the affair might possibly have remained unconsummated.

Miss Vincent met Kevin in the village, in great excitement because he and his wife had just been to bring home their adopted daughter. He offered to bring the baby for her to see, and that evening he and Charlene came across the bridge pushing a glittering new pram. Pulling off her gardening gloves, she went across to meet them, but always at her back she felt the baleful gaze of Bam at the window of the workroom.

Charlene, a thin-faced girl with dragonfly spectacles, handed over the small sour-smelling bundle. Miss Vincent was surprised to discover an insouciant skill at holding babies. She felt full of love for the baby, and for Kevin and Charlene. When she compared them with Bam and the Simons, she was shaken by a sense of the incompleteness of her world.

Kevin asked if Charlene might see round the house.

"Of course. Come along." As she took them upstairs, the sound of the typewriter suddenly ceased. Silence oozed under the workroom door: it was almost, she thought, as though one were harbouring something like the Glamis monster.

When Kevin and Charlene left, Susan Vincent sat in an armchair with her eyes closed. She had a vision of herself free and alone at Midsomer Cottage, a gruff, gardening spinster perhaps, but on friendly terms with all the village. There must be further Kevins and Charlenes to confide in her, more and more damp babies for her to hold, even perhaps other Sydneys for her to know. He was very close to her now; she even felt that somehow, he was watching her.

She opened her eyes. It was Bam, furious and drunk. "How dare you! How dare you bring those appalling louts tramping round the house! It's as though you deliberately wished to destroy my work."

"Kevin wanted his wife to see it, that's all."

"Kevin! I can't make out what's come over you. Are you ill? You seemed besotted with these peasants."

"No, I'm not ill. They're a nice young couple. I like them."

"It's him, isn't it? You fancy him, don't you? After all we've stood for. That's how it's ended."

"Nothing has ended." "You've shown not the slightest interest in this new book I'm doing. You've made no effort to understand my work. You've changed all right, and you think I don't know why." Bam emitted a sudden, rasping snuff. "You never even call me Bambino any more."

Miss Vincent did not answer, but she gave an odd wild laugh, like a tropical bird.

A frequent desire after such incidents is to stare at one's own face, to make sure that one is still the same person that one was before.

In the downstairs lavatory the smell of cigarettes was overpowering. The seat was up,

the water in the b orange, with bub breaking at the ed cigarette end lazily at the centre.

Miss Vincent eyes. Her hand fel plug and pulled. / water put an en vision."

"Sydney," she "Sydney, where are y

Two days later she d ford Chetwynd to L port. The biograp silent, still sniffish, i Vince's fat cheque to expenses of a prolon Paris.

"You've been ov Miss Vincent had s thus throwing the Bam's court."

At the airport, embraces were excha the dry pecks of cu watched the biograp off down the ramp, snout offended figure.

And then she dr down the old road, passed Stonehenge i afternoon light was : long rays through the stones. Then Silb across Salisbury P down the long slope land towards Midsom ton. She passed park long stone walls s wildly among fallin and rocking pheasant.

Ahead of her lay E the serpent banish garden waited: what prepared for her for ing year? The con been exorcized: the being had departed, d oient spirit remained. She unlocked the radio was playing on year's pop tunes. For time, she heard footste "Sydney," she w "Sydney," she w

© Frank Tuohy

Because of industrial action by the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers and Engravers, we are unable to print the drawing planned for this space

Illustration by Michae

Valentin

Good Nights















## Travel

## Coconut sun days



George was quite definite about it. One look at the water churning past the little jetty was enough and he shook his head. "No rafting today man," he said. "It's too high." Which was a pity, for I had been looking forward to racing down Jamaica's Martha Brae river on one of the narrow bamboo rafts now lying half submerged in the water. Mitty-like, I would have been the intrepid explorer shooting the rapids of a crocodile-infested river where danger lurked round every bend.

Not that Martha Brae is quite like that, of course, although the old Sarawak has been known to lure travellers into her banks and take everything they possess. Still, that may just be legend. Certainly she has not done it for a very long time, so I should not let it put you off visiting this beautiful island of bananas and coconuts and marvellous sunsets.

We had driven the 50 miles or so from our hotel in Ocho Rios through some of the most exotic scenery in the world, with tropical fruit and flowers bursting all around us against a backdrop of hills dark blue in the distance. And all the

time the Caribbean sun beat down. In fact, a word of warning here; it is as well to avoid prolonged drives in the heat of the day—despite the temptation to explore the lush countryside. Most of us were feeling a trifle green under our brand-new tans long before we reached journey's end. But that was because we happened to be in a hurry. Frequent stops—along the road for refreshment and the Jamaicans really know how to prepare cool, satisfying drinks—is the most sensible, and enjoyable, way to travel about the island.

In any case, people in a hurry appear out of place in Jamaica. Away from the teeming capital of Kingston, time really does seem unimportant. Obviously, it has much to do with the climate, for humidity is a great leveller, but the impression is heightened by the fact that because of import duty cars are a luxury. The roads are filled with sauntering figures, women off to the market, youths hitch-hiking in noisy groups, gesturing in mock defiance at the motorist who has the cheek not to stop.

For the one thing the Jamaican will not tolerate is indifference. He demands attention with a directness Europeans

can find unimpressive, and his personality is such that he usually commands it, whether he be a top businessman or a woodcarver down from the hills. The truth is that not only ones to have kissed the Blarney Stone, as an encounter with any one of the vast army of street traders soon proves. I remember one rogue with the saddest face I've ever seen whose tale of woe impressed me so much I willingly parted with two dollars for a crudely carved bamboo cup. He had earned his money with a performance. Oliver himself would have been proud of it.

My disappointment over the river trip was eased by a leisurely lunch outdoors which included curried goat (strongly enough for most, not for milk or cheese). Then George drove us in his mini-bus to Falmouth, a few miles away, to visit the covered market.

The town was a hubbub of sound as we walked through the streets with drab buildings highlighted here and there by splendid Georgian facades. The atmosphere was almost carnival-like with exotically dressed couples parading in a jumble of colour and excitement from the cool market on to the crowded street. A moment's stop and there are many in Jamaica who are as close to the heart of the island as the coconut-white smile who

posed patiently by the roadside, a bunch of bananas perched effortlessly on her head (not so familiar a sight nowadays in Jamaica).

I remember, too, "going tourist", quite unashamedly on a tour of a plantation where the highlight was a drink from a fresh coconut sliced open on the spot by a genial guide and laced with rum to "put a tiger in the tank". Here we were sharply reminded of a shadow over the island. The coconut trees have fallen victim to a disease known locally as "ladyfinger", which destroys their yellowing, which destroys their lady heads leaving a ghastly landscape of decapitated trunks where once stood magnificent trees vital to the island's economy.

There being apparently no cure, the palms are being replaced by a smaller species offering no challenge to the coconut gatherers, long famous for their ability to spin up the tallest of trees. Perhaps only the traveller will lament the passing of a colourful custom so closely identified with this sunny island.

Don John

✐ Air Jamaica run non-stop flights to Kingston and Montego Bay (flying time nine hours). Details of package holidays can be obtained from the Jamaican Tourist Board, 6-10 Brompton Street, London, W.1.

## Travel books

## Bartholomew Gazetteer of Britain

Compiled by Oliver Mason (Bartholomew, £3.50)

Name three places in the United Kingdom beginning with Z. No ums, no ahs. Consult Bartholomew. The zealous Mr Mason lists ten. Future masterminds take note. Here is the complete guide to every place from the largest city to the smallest hamlet. Not that Mr Mason will allow me such a generalization: Human settlements are described as cities, towns, villages, hamlets or localities. It is however hardly possible, to define these terms. It is largely a matter of judgement.

Although every reader is bound to argue with specific items Mr Mason is, right, invariably, which is a commendable not given lightly considering he lists some 40,000 places (rivers and counties, too), identifying them where appropriate with county, nearest town and map references (and not just Bartholomew's admirable 1:300,000 maps bound in at the back, but the Ordnance Survey's as well). Additionally cities get brief descriptions (London warrants six lines) and occasionally a spot of colour is added: "Selborne House. Setting of Gilbert White's *Natural History of Selborne*". As the eye traverses the col-

umn, lingering here, digesting an item before continuing, the breadth, the enormity of the undertaking becomes increasingly apparent. To help the inquirer on his way there is an etymology. While I would agree that Pen as a prefix is solely Welsh as Mr Mason appears to claim (what about the Cornish as in the rhyme that begins: "By Tre, Pal and Pen...?") it is generally a full and most helpful list. Never again should I be caught answerless when my children ask the origin of the more obscure, but recurring syllables in place names.

As befits a work of reference from a Scottish publisher, it is particularly erudite on the Gaelic. Pursuing the letter L, one discovers five pages of loc- or 600 by my reckoning. Then, again there are 24 Little Londons (no less than five in Norfolk).

One place leads to another. The entry for Honeybourne refers to Cow Honeybourne, which in its turn notes that it is 4/6km N of Broadway. Flip back the pages and learn that there are six Broadways including one 3/4km SW of Midsummer Norton. Is this a common prefix, I muse? No, says Bartholomew via P 168: Midsummer N is unique. What about prefixes generally? How many places start with Middle as in Walslop? A fresh tangent of study opens up. But here Mr Mason disappoints. Under "Mid, Mid-

die" he states: "For names beginning with these words see under next word". Likewise for Nether, Lesser, Higher, Far, Near et al. Shame!

Mr Mason has prefaced the Gazetteer with a note: "The temptation to write a guide book rather than a reference book has been resisted." But it is a travel book. I shall no longer go anywhere in Britain without first consulting him. In addition there is the bonus of related statistical information. Did you know that Skegness averages 66mm of rain with a temperature of 15.7°C in August, whereas Gorseford further south on the coast offers 62mm and 16.2°C? That there are more than 700 towns in England with over 5,000 people? That Stevenage has grown from 6,700 to 76,000 people in 29 years? That emigrants have outnumbered immigrants in Britain every year since the late 1950s? That 124,000 Japanese visited Britain in 1974?

Here then is the Abate Cumbria to Zouch of Britain. Let the Bartholomew Gazetteer take its place alongside the OED, the Britannica and Who's Who as a reference book that no household should afford to be without.

Ion Trewin

\* Zeal Monachorum, Zeals, South Zeal, Zelah, Zennor, Zennor Head, Zennor Quay, Zions Hill, Zouk Point, Zouch.

## The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union

By Victor and Jennifer Louis

(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

## Smith's Guide to Moscow

By Desmond Smith

(Capo, £4.95)

There is a challenge in Mr and Mrs Louis's title—The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union—that no one who has travelled in the Soviet Union can resist taking up.

Complete, do they say? In my own journey I have been two or three times to Gorki, formerly Nizhni Novgorod, the large and historic city on the Volga, birthplace of Maxim Gorki. No mention of it that I can see. On my way down the Volga I put in at Ulyanovsk, which appears, and at Kuibyshev and Saratov, which do not. I once had to land in a blizzard at Omsk in Siberia. It is briefly mentioned, "Omsk, go" but although I v. hard I can find no other trace of it. There are other gaps.

Once the challenge has been met, however, we can relax, settle down, and enjoy what is a remarkably full guide to the cities, towns and resorts which tourists and scholars are likely

to visit—and many places which they are not likely to reach at all. It is large, pleasantly illustrated with photographs, and well arranged.

After several pages of useful knowledge on the Cyrillic alphabet, a public transport, hotels and restaurants, the birch, of cars, and so on, Mr and Mrs Louis give over 300 pages (set in double columns) of descriptions of towns in alphabetical order. The search for information is not left off all work entirely. He begins the list with "Abkhazia, see Sukhumi" and ends it with "Zheleznoy Vody", after coping with other gaps and leaders in between. But it is all fair play.

The authors generally give a brief history of each place, pick out the best features of its churches and museums, and name the hotels and restaurants where such are available. Especially useful are the passages on the motor routes, with their widely spaced garages and filling stations. Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and their neighbouring places of interest take up several well packed pages each, as is right and proper, but the merits of distant places like Irkutsk (still with much the atmosphere of a Tsarist garrison town), Alma Ata and Tashkent are also neatly and precisely spelled out.

Mr Smith's guide to Moscow

is much more informal and gives many more useful hints on how the innocent should behave in Moscow and how he may reasonably expect Russian shopkeepers, officials, tourist girls, waiters and waitresses to behave towards him. For example, before he has learned by heart Mr Smith's warning about the slow service which he must expect, and tolerate, without apology, in most restaurants.

"It should not come as a surprise to you if you wait 30 minutes for a menu. Allow another 30 minutes for the table to be reset. Allow an additional half-hour before the first course arrives."

Mr Smith has no less sound and experienced advice for western businessmen, hoping for orders to emerge from the bureaucratic machine, and on how visitors can best recover from illnesses. Most of the handy little book, with its many free-style line drawings, is naturally taken up with the Kremlin, the museums, the churches, the restaurants of all kinds, the bars on the western model, and the shops. One strange thing is that Mr Smith misses out November 7—the anniversary of the revolution, so less—from his too-brief list of public holidays. But the book can be read for pleasure, even at home.

Iverach McDonald

## The Companion Guide to Northumberland

by Edward Gierston (Collins, £6.95 and £3.50)

Worthy addition to the best contemporary series of travel guides, which despite the title includes Durham. Mr Gierston finds redeeming features in even the most industrial corners of Tyneside. For compensation he covers as far

north as Berwick and westwards along Hadrian's Wall. Hungary, by Diana McNair Wilson (Batsford, £5.50); Czechoslovakia, by John Burke (Batsford, £5.50). Two good-looking illustrated primers for those making exploratory journeys into eastern Europe.

Sussex Villages, by Michael H. C. Baker (Hale, £4.20). An un-

usual approach to Hale's Village series in that the author is a railway enthusiast, which means that trains get more mentions in the index than even the South Downs. An important source has been the Sussex County Magazine, one of the longest running of county journals and an invaluable social history of the community.

## Bridge

## Amazons in battle

At the end of last year, in the Ladies Teams of Four Championship now known as the Helena Rubinstein Cup, there was a surprise victory for an unseeded team. I have never attended an all-women's event, which to an onlooker must be frightening even before the contestants discuss each other's play; but one of the winners assured me that the standard of bidding was low, and I was pleasantly surprised on reading some of the key deals how skillfully the leading teams escaped the traps which might have entangled more expert partnerships. I had taken the opportunity to ask her what, in particular, she and her team-mates had done to vanquish European champions and similar stars. The answer given to me was that they bid their hands as they saw them, without bothering to assess what their opponents were likely to bid with the same cards.

The most remarkable feature of the winning team was the age and stamina of its members. The four could count between them over 250 years yet they played nine rounds of 10 boards before qualifying for a knock-out quarter-final, semi-final and final between eight teams who survived the earlier sessions. At this juncture I must mention, because one lady had the same name and initial as myself, that she did not play under an assumed name and that I had not succeeded in entering Mrs Ryan's Sussex team in disguise.

It is customary in recent years to look down upon players who do not study all the latest gadgets and who concentrate on preserving their partnership understanding. Even when the dust had settled on the final match, the victors were described in the *Bridge Magazine* as an unpretentious team with no claims to brilliance in the same way as if they were a bourgeois wine served at a Lord Mayor's banquet.

It is sometimes forgotten that bidding teams of four are much closer to rubber bridge than to a duplicate pairs tournament. It is therefore more vital to clinch a slam than to profit on a few part scores, and partners who employ the minimum number of conventions are least likely to be confused in sorting out the bigger issues.

An interesting deal in the final round shows the importance of giving the correct preference bid in response to the opener who takes charge of the auction.

Game all; dealer North:

♠ A K Q 5 3  
♥ A K Q 7 5  
♦ Q 7  
♣ 10 9 8 4

W N E S  
10 9 8 4 10 9 8 4  
10 9 8 4 10 9 8 4  
10 9 8 4 10 9 8 4

♠ K 5 4 3  
♥ A Q 9 7  
♦ A  
♣ A

North East South West  
1. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
2. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
3. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
4. ♠ 10 9 8 4

North East South West  
1. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
2. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
3. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
4. ♠ 10 9 8 4

The bidding was slightly speculative and South appears to have been misled by the auction ended in Six No trumps; hence her jump to Six Hearts in the confidence that her partner's suit was substantial. From South's angle there was also the danger of a contract in Spades which would be ruined by a bad trump break.

Actually, Six Spades can be made if South catches the ♠A and ruffs a club before knocking the trumps together.

The key to the slam contract was provided by North's rebid of Clubs, and that is why I suggested that she was having a modest gamble. She was placing a strain on her values by rejecting Three No trumps, having already made a jump bid to Clubs. Over Three No trumps South could rebid Four Diamonds and North Four Hearts, so the slam in Hearts

might still be reached. As I have often said, it is easier to convert the strength of a responding hand by raising the level on the first round and bidding the minor before the major suit; there is less danger of being stranded in the weak suit with only seven trumps, and the hands are seen in better perspective. The auction would be:

North East South West  
1. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
2. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
3. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
4. ♠ 10 9 8 4

There might then be some excuse for passing Five Hearts, but I see none for the sequence adopted by the losing team:

North East South West  
1. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
2. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
3. ♠ 10 9 8 4  
4. ♠ 10 9 8 4

I was told that South's Two Diamonds could have been interpreted by her partner as a forcing bid in the fourth suit which did not necessarily mean length in Diamonds; for that reason she rebid them two rounds later when a preference bid of Four Hearts might have been more constructive. As for the meaning of North's Three Diamonds on the singleton ♠8 your guess is as good as mine. Presumably North sought to ensure that her partner did not pass before game was reached, but she seems to have overlooked that a suit had not been agreed. Artificial bids prove their value only when they are employed by a partner who knows what information they are seeking.

The next match in the Home International Championships between England and Scotland for the Camrose Trophy will take place at Europe Lodge Hotel, Newcastle, on Saturday, February 19, at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and on Sunday, February 20, at 2 p.m. The English team will be: I. Panto, C. P. Lester, I. N. Rose, R. M. Sheehan, Mr and Mrs R. A. Priddy; non-playing captain, T. Reese.

Edward Mayer

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## The Aphrodite Myth

Aphrodite is the Classical Greek Goddess of Love.

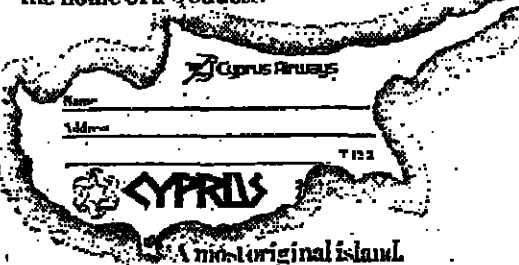
It was to her that Paris awarded the Golden Apple as the most beautiful of the Immortals. Aphrodite was born in Cyprus. And the ancient Cypriot city of Paphos has always been the centre of her worship. Cyprus is quite beautiful. It's a land of high snow-capped mountains, green fertile valleys and long, clean, white, uncrowded beaches.

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## Guide to Visiting Vineyards

Anthony Hogg

No other remotely comparable guide exists: and anyone with an interest in wine who proposes to travel Europe should carry a copy of Anthony Hogg's Guide in the dashboard cupboard. £4.50 John Ariotti, *Guardian*

## The Complete Guide to the Soviet Union

Victor and Jennifer Louis

A welcome addition to the scanty material available on the contemporary scene... Every student of the USSR and every intending traveller should turn to the book for guidance and information. Geographical Magazine £8.95 Fully illustrated with photographs and maps. Michael Joseph

ALGARVE AND SOUTHERN PORTUGAL CZECHOSLOVAKIA BORDEAUX AND AQUITAINE BRITANNY AND NORMANDY THE CANARY ISLANDS CENTRAL ITALY NORTHERN SPAIN HUNGARY INDIA ISRAEL THE ITALIAN LAKES CORSICA THE RHINELAND SOUTH AFRICA BARBADOS DENMARK GREECE EGYPT PARIS TRAVEL BOOKS ROME SWEDEN LOIRE FINLAND TUNIS JAMAICA THE BAHAMAS SWITZERLAND RUSSIA SAILING ROUND IRELAND NORWAY THE VENET MADRID & SOUTHERN SPAIN BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG MOROCCO SARDINIA NETHERLANDS NORTHERN ITAL DISCOVERING PROVENCE EATING & DRINKING IN FRANCE ROME AND SOUTHERN ITALY THE WEST INDIAN ISLAND







## Sacre bleu! Texas Jack hits the trail again in le sauvage Far West

The immortal James Thurber once recalled the pleasure he derived from early French novels about "le Far West". It was my good fortune, while cleaning out an attic in France last year, to come on several surviving specimens of the genre, apparently from the early years of this century.

"Texas Jack, la Terreur des Indiens" had run into its third number ("C'est une aventure dans les bibliothèques, Gares, Kiosques, etc.") entitled *Le Pantalon Rouge de Fort Leaton*. It sold for 15 centimes however much that was in those days, and was seemingly printed in Berlin, of all places. I would date it around 1910. The author is anonymous.

The cover (in three-colour printing) shows the mustachioed hero in buckskin ascending a marauding Indian in the wooden walls of Fort Leaton located "à un endroit fort dangereux de la forêt vierge, juste au point frontière du Texas avec le Mexique".

There is something intriguing about the cover-picture, something which any French adolescent would have spotted as the clue to the mystery. Texas Jack—his real name is said to have been Jack Hawkins—was born "dans une modeste ferme sur les bords de la rivière de North-Canada". A trying childhood, during which his foster-parents were massacred by Redskins, instilled in him the mission "de purger le sauvage Far West des coquins à peau rouge ou à bande, des Indiens et des bandits qui l'infestaient".

### Assassination mysteries

Jack was dispatched by the White House itself to solve the mystery of nightly assassinations and scalping of sentries at Fort Leaton. Not that scalping was necessarily fatal. As Jack observed during his first meeting with the commandant, Colonel Mac Kay: "Je connais même des gens qui ont été scalés par des guerriers indiens, et qui se portent aujourd'hui comme vous et moi".

Mourning guard on his first night, Jack is approached by the Colonel's young blonde wife, Mistress Lucie Mac Kay,

who offers him a refreshing drink: "Je vous ai préparé un excellent whisky scotch", she explains demurely. "Cela vous plaira, j'en suis sûre". Suspecting perfidy, Jack empties the drink down his shirt-front, gallantly commenting "Exquisite!" Then he feigns sleep. A half-hour later, he is not surprised to see a redskin-like figure creep up on him with "un bowie" in its hand (one wonders how this booklet would have survived France's latest language laws).

Overpowering his would-be scalper, Jack quickly discovers that it is Mistress Mac Kay herself, and her first request is a reasonable one: "Je me presserai pas ainsi la poitrine avec votre genou. Si mon mari vient, je suis perdue!"

Jack inadvertently allows her to explain herself tête-à-tête with her husband, the elderly Colonel, whereupon Mistress Mac Kay scalps the poor fellow and sets fire to the fort, escaping in the ensuing confusion.

In one great battle, a band of white men is outnumbered defending the summit of a rock escarpment. The Indians show remarkable dexterity by climbing the sheer rock-face "à brandissant leurs tomahawks au-dessus de leur tête" (and incidentally violating a rule of French plural which I, for one, was taught at school).

Finally, Mistress Mac Kay is lassoed by Texas Jack in a fray at the gates of Fort Leaton. And although this episode is several days' march from the nearest white settlement, her fate is easily decided: "Elle fut traduite dès le lendemain devant un conseil de guerre convoqué au Fort Leaton, sur un ordre envoyé télégraphiquement de Washington. Neat!"

For those who may doubt the existence of the moment of redoubtable hero, the blurb assures readers that "son nom a été inscrit dans le Livre d'or de la Maison Blanche". Barnum and Bailey offered him \$10,000 a week to tour America and Europe with them, but his proud reply was: "Je reste dans ma forêt vierge".

David Bonavia

George Hutchinson

## Disillusion and disrespect: these are the true legacies of Labour's public slanging match

Small wonder if Mr Callaghan is looking on with distaste, not to say disgust, as Mr Joe Haines's Downing Street disclosures and the resultant hullabaloo continue to dog the Labour Party day after day. However amusing they may be in some respects, or instructive in others, this is not an edifying narrative. Nor is it innocuous. Politically, the Prime Minister has grounds for dismay, even alarm.

As to the notorious resignation honours (not that they account for more than a fraction of this catalogue of folly), you can believe Sir Harold Wilson and Lady Falkender or you can believe Mr Haines: they cannot all be telling the truth. Who is to be trusted? Like me, you have probably formed your own judgment. For my part, I do not intend to explore the nature and origins of that preposterous rell call any further, having done so when it was promulgated—and to some effect (you may remember Lady Falkender's famous letter to *The Times*).

To my mind, the underlying danger is much more serious than the immediate repercussions. Nor can Mr Haines be exonerated from the consequences. Is it right, in all propriety, that he should publish these recollections? As a Simon P. socialist, he may be able to defend his decision philosophically. But there are obligations to consider. Lots of people could expose old colleagues to ridicule or worse: few choose to do so, however injured they might feel, and this is consistently true of public servants, of whom Mr Haines was one.

What is beyond doubt or conjecture is the damage to the Labour Party—but not only to the Labour Party and the present government. The deeper effect must be to undermine confidence in our institutions and in the ability of public life, to encourage scepticism

and promote disillusion. No one can gain from that, except our enemies. The prolonged slanging match must contribute to a lessening of national pride, and thereby of international respect. This is no light charge.

Sir Harold Wilson and Lady Falkender must carry a heavy responsibility for the electoral rebuff now threatening Labour—but abetted, strangely enough, by the austere Mr Haines. If their party is falling from grace, they are all in some degree to blame.

Mr Haines's book, *The Politics of Power*, will be published on Monday by Jonathan Cape, price £4.95. Here is a modest illustration of the declining standards of service now so common in shops, banks, hotels and other commercial establishments—and I would suggest that it has a larger import. The other day, after buying a pair of shoes in a well-known store, I decided to take a taxi on leaving and to change a £5 note for the purpose. Turning to the nearest assistant, I asked for change.

What a re-do I caused by that simple request. A more senior person, severe of aspect, officious in manner, at once bustled up, declaring that they were not allowed to give change. I remarked, very mildly, that I had actually been spending money in their shop, and I would suggest that it has a larger import. The other day, after buying a pair of shoes in a well-known store, I decided to take a taxi on leaving and to change a £5 note for the purpose. Turning to the nearest assistant, I asked for change.

Perhaps I should forewarn Sir Hugh Fraser, Lord Redmayne and other directors that after many years I may feel inclined to close my account unless they mend their ways. Their famous emporium used

to be noted for outstanding courtesy and attention. It would do the business no harm if the earlier standards were restored—and that reflection probably applies to half the businesses in England.

One irony, of course, is that the decline, now widespread if not yet universal, is occurring in the era of "consumer protection"—a term unknown in the days when good service was the rule rather than the exception in commercial undertakings of all descriptions. But then this may not be surprising when the business world in all its numerous parts, and not small, is so harassed by bureaucratic regulation and interference. When the volume of unproductive—and often futile—paperwork demanded by officialdom occupies so much time, management may well become discouraged or demoralized. And dispirited management are hardly likely to inspire their staffs to better efforts.

At every level, British commerce and industry is in need of liberation: freedom could do wonders for us all (and I mean legitimate freedom, not licence). But this is not what the staff of a government and party wedded to restrictive controls and the shackling extension of public authority. Instead, while Labour remains in office, we are for ever threatened with further checks and prohibitions: and in the age of the state—in the crushing of individual responsibility—lies the certainty of national infirmity, of which falling standards of service, private and public alike, may be taken as evidence. When people feel oppressed, not to say humiliated on occasion, they tend to become sour, as if imprisoned by some cold autocracy.

It is already late in the day—but not too late to arrest the process and then to turn direction. "Set the People

Free" was Churchill's call in Opposition. His ultimately successful battle was fought twenty-six years afterwards. Mrs Thatcher could scarcely improve on the precept or the phrase.

The public row over Mr William Camp's appointment as chairman of the railways for 1977-82 may be exaggerated. He and his colleagues are to receive £15,000 a year in fees and will apparently become the overlords of BR publicity.

But Mr Camp has been working for the Railways Board in the interests of the unions opposed to reductions in staff. Is he then a prisoner turned gamekeeper? Given that Mr Parker is anxious to have railway fortunes, Mr Camp's resignation can only be justified. Like the other staff of the Board, he would wish our system to survive, lowered though it was by Mr Ernest Marples and his accomplice Lord Beeching.

What I fear, however, is that Peter Parker has succeeded in antagonising many of his staff. Introducing Mr Camp, I know William Camp. He is an accomplished and interesting man, although less than a giant. In recent days I have seen him described as having "masterminded" the Wilson election campaign in 1970. Well, yes, I dare say. But Mr Wilson did after all manage to lose that election to Mr Heath.

Lady Falkender was more sparing in her extraordinary (that is to say, stunningly commonplace) book, *Inside No 10*. William Camp, she wrote, came to join us at a fairly late stage. He had worked in a large nationalised organization, but had never been at the centre of an election campaign. He did not know how Harold worked nor the form.

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## No parking, please, in the Royal Jubilee riverside gardens

Probably the most enduring and conspicuous memorial to the Queen's Silver Jubilee will be the new riverside gardens on the south bank of the Thames. The scheme has not pleased everyone, particularly visitors to the Festival Hall and the National Theatre, who have nowhere to park their cars: one reader wrote to *The Times*, asking if the GLC had taken leave of its collective senses.

But of course the former site of the 1951 Festival of Britain should never have been used for anything so mundane as a car park. Occupying some four and a half acres in the very heart of the capital, confronting the historic sweep of Westminster and Whitehall, it can be fairly described as one of the finest urban locations in Europe.

Responsibility for its conversion to a more worthy use has been entrusted to Mr Max Nicholson, former director general of the Nature Conservancy, who has got the bulldozers and excavators to work with a most un-British sense of urgency. "In a few months we will have achieved what bureaucracy has failed to do in 25 years", he proclaims proudly.

But although the project is the showpiece of the Jubilee environmental programme for London, Mr Nicholson is anxious that it should not be seen as typical. The Queen has indicated that she does not want scarce resources diverted to expensive prestige schemes, and the programme largely concentrates on low budget improvements, such as finding new uses for derelict land and empty buildings, with an emphasis on community involvement.

He echoes the views of those who feel that the environmental movement has become too much the preserve of middle class amenity societies and other pressure groups. The emphasis has been on the retention of architectural monuments rather than on introducing new lifeblood into dying neighbourhoods.

Much of the present urban malaise is due to apathy, he believes. Admittedly central and local government policies and their implementation have proved, there would still be the need to restore communities' faith in themselves and in their ability to transform their

surroundings by their efforts.

"Conservation is a question of going to ring notices on building 'hands off'". "This is an entirely approach and can harm."

Nor, however, is it a matter of tidying up. "We are trying to give a very heart of the protest Nicholson emphasizes, while townspeople, up them out of their area given them the sort of their surroundings find among village countryside."

Twenty years ago, towns, indifference was prevalent in rural areas the last generation has been persuaded that environment is worth for; the same sentiment among the urban area is ready to be. In the most unlikely such as the Isle of east London, the private not in a ruinous team, but in disrepair many people from the act.

Underlying Mr Nicholson's campaign—for it is campaign, rather than programme—is the bureaucracy has been its inadequacy. The of an overworked all its attendant soles, yet containing acres of derelict land million sq ft of unus can only be remove refusal of the put while to tolerate such any longer.

Yet the campaign has to begin at the g If a piece of land is a building abandoned good reason, then lo should combine to chide the wayward old people's centre.

From such mode nings the movement dually embrace broad and eventually persuade local authorities vate owners that visiting buildings are a economic waste, as visually disgraced. If it holds out greater l the nearly colour adorning the walls planning offices.

John

### Sportview

## Josh Gifford: coming up fast as the new 'wizard of Findon'

Josh Gifford is hoping to be at Newbury races this afternoon to saddle Major Derek Wiggin's French-bred hurdler, Tiepolino, in the Schwepps Gold Trophy. In his days as a jockey, the 35-year-old son of a Huntingdon farmer won that race four times.

When Ryan Price was earling himself the nickname of "the wizard of Findon" by capturing four out of the first five runnings of this valuable and controversial handicap, Gifford as the rider on each occasion. Four times National Hunt champion jockey, he has come up the hard way having served his time first with Cliff Beecher in Northamptonshire and then with Sam Armstrong at Newmarket. When Price decided to concentrate his attention on flat racing in 1970, Gifford had just married Althea Roger-Smith, a talented horse-woman who had achieved success in show-jumping and three-day eventing.

Taking his courage in both hands Gifford bought Price's 200-year-old establishment at Findon and set up as a trainer on his own. The Giffords are a striking couple. Josh is restless and energetic with an eagle nose and piercing dark eyes which thoughtfully consider every question. Althea, tall and attractive, is more placid but equally determined. With his background and experience owners flock to Gifford: he is busy and happy and fast

making a name for himself. The present unpredictable weather has made long-term planning virtually impossible for trainers, and the tension caused by this situation was apparent at the moment I arrived. On a tour of his stables the trainer's remarks were short and to the point. When I commented on the magnificent condition of Grand Trianon, Gifford said: "That's because he is still a colt; entire horses always carry more condition".

Finally, we came to the stable's star, Tiepolino, a handsome bay full of quality. He looked well enough to me, but the trainer was not 100 per cent happy about him. "He is coming back to his best last but it takes a long time to recover from being gelded".

Back in the house it was impossible to get a word in edgewise as the telephone rang incessantly. First the trainer dialed his jockey, Bob Champion, to discuss tactics at Towcester. Immediately the receiver was replaced, his assistant, Richard Parker, walked in and said that a horse was haemorrhaging badly. Would Gifford call the vet? Gifford called the vet, called Gifford, paced nervously up and down the room.

I talked to Mrs Gifford, trying at the same time to evade the fascinating bits of information Gifford was giving the owners who 'phoned in one



Josh Gifford: came up the hard way.

after the other. During dinner there were comparatively few interruptions but the only topic discussed was cricket: about which Gifford is a fanatic.

"The selectors must be bankers" to have picked Fletcher for the fourth Test, now that we've won the series. The established players can fall time after time, but if a

promising youngster flops once, he never gets another chance" was Gifford's disgusted comment as he ate his last mouthful.

We were hardly back in our armchairs in the sitting room before Mr George Sloan called from the United States. Owner of a chain of fresh-food stores in Nashville, he is going to

ride his own horse Moufire in the Grand National. Now he was riding to see if it was worth his while flying over to ride Mister Knowall against the likes of Bula in a valuable race at Sandown. He was recommended not to.

At last we talked about horses. I asked him about the difference between "apple-chasers and hurdlers." "Nowadays very little," he answered. "Up to a few years ago the champion hurdlers such as Sir Ken and Persian War never graduated to chasing successfully. The fences were stiffer and more upright. If a horse was hurdling for too long, he could never become adjusted to standing back and jumping off his hocks. But now that fences are sloping and more inviting, they seem to get the hang of it much more easily. Look at Bula. He was the Champion Hurdle twice and has become a high class chaser as well. Now Lazzarotti looks as if he is going to make the grade."

I asked him how he looked for the future. "Practically impossible. I've got scouts all over Ireland and the north of England but they're difficult to find. Anything with the right conformation and pedigree is hard to come by. I'd rather buy a well-made individual with winning form on the flat. You know they've got the speed and it's speed that wins races. You can buy a horse out of the bogs in Ireland with all the bone and

pedigree in the world, but you don't know if he can gallop."

We then discussed jockeys. "Champion and I have built up a good understanding. We know each individual horse and how it needs riding, but only in special cases do I tie him down to orders. Even then if he disregards them for a good reason that's all right with me. It was the same with the Captain (Ryan Price). He never told me what to do, only gave me a good rollicking if I got it wrong."

What sort of a horse did it take to win the Schwepps? "A bloody good one. The best hurdler I've ever ridden was Le Vermontois. He was only a novice when he ran away with the race carrying 11-3. He'd have won a Champion Hurdle for sure if he'd kept sound."

Then a final word about Tiepolino. "I'm sure he's on the way back. There's a good chance I might try a pair of blinkers on him. I don't much like them and they are a bit of a gamble. But if they work they help a horse to concentrate in a large field. He also has a good head and a good hit, which is an added incentive to keep going. Mind you, they only work once on an intelligent horse. He says to himself afterwards: 'You've kidded me this time, you blighters, but you won't get away with it again.'"

Michael Seely

## More pieces to the America jigsaw

Further instructive jigsaw fragments of evidence have been assembled by Mr Forbes Taylor to support the theory that seamen from Bristol discovered America before Columbus, and kept quiet about their discovery, first for commercial and later for strategic reasons.

As in his previous work much of the evidence consists of impenetrably detailed analysis of contemporary documents with a commercial interest reading between the lines, and by indications finding out the direction of the clandestine voyages. But Mr Taylor of Bristol adduces a more solid potential witness: the last of the mysterious old stone towers of Newport, Rhode Island. This puzzling structure, built on eight rude columns set at compass points, had two rooms, a fireplace, and a conical wooden roof. It has been variously explained as a very fortified round church built by Vikings. Mr Taylor suggests that it was a fortress, a house and trading post built by the men of Bristol, in their characteristic architectural style of the fifteenth century, for storing bales of cloth and other trading goods in between voyages to their secret El Dorado in the west.

He is hoping to raise sponsors and money to finance a small expedition of his own to explore the enigmatic tower with a metal detector, to discover for himself whether its builders buried a coin in the foundations.

But his main work has been on the commercial and maritime documents, to fill in his theory that men from Bristol discovered the north-east coast of America from 1475 on, and that exploration was halted around 1481 for 20 years, for reasons of trade and state. For example, he reads in a carefully worded document of Edward IV that the Crown was aware of the westward explorations and discoveries even at that early date, and wanted them hushed up. This document, he says, was a carefully worded document of Edward IV that the Crown was aware of the westward explorations and discoveries even at that early date, and wanted them hushed up. This document, he says, was a carefully worded document of Edward IV that the Crown was aware of the westward explorations and discoveries even at that early date, and wanted them hushed up.

Mr Taylor's principal fishing expedition has been in and around two patents of Henry VII of 1501 and 1502, whose ostensible purpose was to set out the minutes and singularly complicated steps to naturalise three Portuguese seamen. He asserts that these patents were in fact a thinly concealed advertisement for anybody in the secret that government policy had been changed, and that the way was now clear for exploration.

He notes in them an under

taking that those who took such voyages to hidden western lands fully gardoned for their former oath and mission of customs goods brought back from the west. Mr Taylor particularly significant peated use of "recovery" and "reco lost places and island documents. The 1512 patent, five years after the first, suggests that the patent systematic annulment oath of secrecy imposed 1481. The indication patents are that this volved: keeping a secret under the name; a prohibition; exploration; and the ston of relevant char directions, and mete information, and their

In addition the oath included a prohibition trespassing in or att territories of other po an undertaking to p incoming cargo to the Officers at Bristol, all dues for its releas to waivers noted in th

Keeping its secret well

If such an oath, vities of excommunicate beheading, did exist, its secret well, since no suspected its existe nearly 500 years. Its according to Mr Taylor kept the great secret, coming into conflict w stronger imperialist po to abandon settlement profits in favour of a plority of exclusive, qu around fishing on th founded Banks. Henry VII changed this stine policy, and cut the web of secrecy w motive for his change was to send armed m men westward to anti northward-prowling who were following up coveries of Columbus, recover the secret le covered a generation b seamen from Bristol, a officially forgotten.

It is a mountain of to build on complica cryptic commercial doc Mr Forbes Taylor says Japanese have a sayr not ask yourself what i ask yourself why d t. These documents eloquent, though indre quant, about an earl abandoned set of expl westward from around 1 Taylor, many years on personal voyage of h discovery, is now sear the original oath of settlement in the New and for any other evid will confirm the old s that men from Bristol g first.

Philip H

© The Times, F. R. Taylor.

## Don't phone us, Fred, we are much happier phoning you

Mr Hugh Jenkins's recent criticism of the intellectual standard of radio phone-in programmes and the people who use them brought this response from one phone-in host.

"This is your last night phone-in programme. Tell it how it is, with Fred Frankly, your own frantic expert. Rise above your frantic tonight, and show Mr Jenkins where he gets off when he says you phoneders are ignorant, pathetic and moronic. Hello, Edgar from Cheam, what's your problem?"

Edgar: My neighbour has lost his job and is drawing £50 a week on the dole. I'm wondering whether I should give up my company directorship at Cable and Wireless and join him. I get £14,000 a year, which I think is totally unrealistic and compares badly with other European managers. There are a few fringe benefits, like the cut-rate mortgage on my house, a company car (taxed and insured and they pay the garage bills), help with home entertaining, my golf club subscription—oh, and the company send a man round to look after the garden. But they are nothing out of the ordinary, and I'm frustrated as scolding so my motivation is scolding so badly, in fact, that I just can't

get started first thing in the morning. Frankly: Well, you certainly are in a bad way. You talk about being badly off salary-wise compared with your European counterparts, but have you asked yourself whether your performance, and the performance of British executives, is comparable with that of European managers. Does the state of British industry as compared with French or Dutch industry, where investment has been double ours, justify parity?"

You must remember, too, that it is not only the senior executives who feel themselves badly done by when they look at Europe—the British worker is almost the lowest-paid in Europe. And as for those few fringe benefits you mention, British executives get far more in the way of company perks than their opposite numbers on the Continent. Maybe you'd feel less listless if you got up and dug the garden yourself!

And now let's hear from Sarah in South Oxendon. Sarah: We are told that this year's economic crisis is better, no, sorry, I mean worse, than last year's, and yet we were told that last year's was fatal. This is very confusing for

simple people like me. We have had warnings of imminent doom, so when we are going to go over the top—or is it through the floor—and how will we know when we get there?

Frankly: You will know when we have reached the final crisis because both the Government and the Opposition, whichever political parties they are, will say so at the same time. Until then you must deduct about 20 per cent from the forebodings and conclusions of the Opposition parties, and deduct a further 20 per cent from the optimistic targets of the government spokesmen. This will give you something like reality. This is not because they have all got their figures wrong, but because politicians, as a group, are rather kindly sensitive folk and they are inclined to be optimistic or pessimistic according to whether they are in or out of office.

I hope you find this helpful—the device can be applied to every aspect of the economy—unemployment, trading opportunities, the state of the construction industry and so on. One word of caution, however, if you have been listening to the "conclusive forecasts" on the economy of the Scottish nationalists, you had better

deduct 50 per cent from their estimates of the oil revenues. Now let's hear from Doreen of Doncaster.

Doreen: I am in no way colour prejudiced. In fact, I did not even refuse treatment from the charming West Indian nurses when I was in hospital recently. But even we send all the black (bleep) back? I mean, why should we have them here anyway?

Frankly: That's a tricky one. You say you aren't colour prejudiced, so I suppose you want to get rid of all immigrant families. And if you look at the statistical surveys of the past century it soon becomes clear that there is virtually no such thing as a pure-bred Englishman. Even if we only got rid of all those who have come in since the sixteenth century, we would find ourselves with no one left except the Scots and the Welsh, and a few of the more ancient members of the ancient aristocracy. I think you'd agree, Doreen, that we can't leave England to them.

So back to the coloured population, and the first thing you notice is that there aren't all that many of them—only about 14 million out of a total population of 58 million, and nearly 40 per cent of these were

born in Britain. Then, because they are, on the whole, younger than the average population, they actually put more into the state system, in terms of tax and national insurance, and take less out of it, than the population as a whole.

Then there's the National Health Service, which would virtually break down without its immigrant staff. One in every three hospital doctors is an immigrant, one in every four of all doctors in Britain. And there's all the nurses, auxiliary and domestic staff—it's hard to see how we could manage without them. The same is true of our public transport services. In the 1950s and 1960s we advertised abroad for people to come and work here because of the labour shortage so you see Doreen...

Doreen, are you still there? No? Well, never mind, we have Ted from Bexley on the line. Ted: Why can't we have a coalition government? Then everyone could get together to do what's best for the country, and Parliament would run more smoothly.

Frankly: Well, quite apart from the fact that one can agree on what's best for the country, it may be news to you that what

we already have in Parliament is a coalition. Hardly a week goes by without some new combination of votes. For example, when the National Insurance Bill was voted on last month one Labour MP went into the Tory lobby, other Labour MPs abstained, and the Government was saved by the United Ulster Unionists, led by Enoch Powell, who refused to vote with the Tories. The scenario can be rewritten with almost any combination, and the electorate is getting more and more muddled about what anyone stands for and stays at home. That's coalition for you, brother.

And now, Joan from Brightside, Sheffield. Joan: Isn't it about time we brought the troops out of Northern Ireland, where they are brutal, prejudiced and act against the local people? We could then send them to Rhodesia, perhaps, to keep order there.

Frankly: You really think like a statesman, Joan. That is quite a noble thought. Sorry, I'll have to stop there, there's a call on the line from the IRA saying there's a bomb in the building...

Eric Moonman





New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## RANGE TALES FROM IRAQ

From Syria and Kuwait, past two days indicated Iraq had closed its border with both countries. Yesterday ports were officially denied. It must therefore be assumed that the closure was temporary. Almost certainly it was related to incidents occurred earlier in the year. The annual pilgrimage of the Shi'a Muslims to the shrine of the martyr, Hussein ibn al-Karbalah, according to officials, these incidents caused by "agitators" of an origin who tried to stir up among the pilgrims "anti-government" slogans.

Until March 1975 Iraq was also involved in a bitter ideological conflict with Iran, in the course of which Iran posed as the protector of the oppressed Shi'a population in Iraq, and several Shi'a religious leaders were executed in Iraq for alleged conspiracy against the Baath regime. The spectacular reconciliation between Iran and Iraq may therefore be supposed to have benefited the Shi'a population in Iraq; and it certainly made life easier for Iranian pilgrims visiting the Shi'a holy places. On the other hand it was almost certainly unwelcome to Syria, and was quite certainly disastrous for the Kurdish autonomist rebels in northern Iraq, whose revolt collapsed after the sudden withdrawal of Iranian support. Lately, however, there has been a growing number of reports of renewed guerrilla fighting in the Kurdish mountains, and of reprisals by the Iraqi authorities against Kurdish civilians.

Both Kurds and Syrians might therefore be supposed to have an interest in provoking conflict

between the Shi'a sect and the Iraqi regime, which in turn might lead to a deterioration in Iraqi-Iranian relations. But it is equally possible that the "anti-government and reactionary slogans" reflected the genuine feelings of some of the Iraqi pilgrims (for the Baath regime is not tender with its enemies, and economic hardship persists in spite of the country's oil wealth). The incidents might have got out of hand as a result of police over-reaction; and the regime might then have found it convenient to discover a Syrian agent with a bomb in order to divert resentment against an external enemy.

The bomb is said to have been "double the force of the explosives" which went off at Baghdad airport on December 14, killing three and injuring many, after allegedly being unloaded from a plane which had just arrived from Damascus. Interpretation of that incident too remains uncertain. Was it a ruse by the Syrians to the terrorist activities of the Iraqi-sponsored "Black June", or could it have been arranged by the Iraqi regime to add plausibility to its vilification of the "treacherous" Syrians? That may seem a far-fetched speculation, but hardly further-fetched than the plot of General Nazem Kazdar, the former Iraqi security chief, who was executed in July 1973 for attempting to assassinate the President and Vice-President while holding the defence and interior ministries hostage—apparently planning to accuse them of the crime and proclaim himself the saviour of the country. Iraq is a strange country, where even the strangest explanations of events cannot *a priori* be ruled out.

cover. When all these factors are taken into account, however, it is not satisfactory that people who have been saving for ten and fifteen years get little more than the money back that they have paid in premiums when they are forced to surrender. In some cases they will not even get their money back.

There is an element of paternalism in the attitude of life offices which produces this result. They ought, in our view, to look on themselves more in the light of trustees, for the savings of each individual policyholder. Taking due account of administrative and other costs and having a conservative view of the ups and downs of the investment cycle, life offices should pay surrender values that are related to the part of the invested funds that an individual's premiums to date represent.

It cannot be a good advertisement for the industry that, on present surrender values, a saver would be better off for a given level of premium after ten or fifteen years had he taken out ordinary life insurance and put what was left over on deposit with a bank or building society. If the small print on prevailing surrender values were forcefully drawn to the attention of those on the point of taking out twenty or twenty-five-year endowment policies, many of those who enter into them would be substantially discouraged.

## Eire's attitude to terrorism

From Mr David James, MP for Dorset, North (Conservative)

Sir, The conjunction of news on your page 2 (Thursday, February 10) is grotesque as it makes any love of Ireland want to weep. The first four columns deal with the conviction of five terrorists on six charges of murdering innocent people, one of manslaughter and several of indiscriminate restaurant bombings. The next column reports the Strasbourg "torture" hearings and the Irish demand that those involved should be prosecuted.

I have no doubt that the Government have admitted that the interrogation methods used were a grievous mistake, even though I think it would be better to subject them rather than be knee-capped with an electric drill. But those involved received generous compensation from the British Government, while I am not aware of any Irish offer of compensation to Mrs Ross McWhirter or Mrs Hamilton-Fairley. Doubtless the Irish Government would assert that they carried no responsibility for IRA actions, but it is hard to square with their Court's refusal to extradite more than 20 people charged with murder on the grounds that random killings and bombings were "politically" motivated.

Large numbers of the 1,700 people murdered have been British soldiers, who alone stand between Ireland and a civil war that would make 1922 look like a vicarage tea party. Yet the Irish still insist on trying right-wing soldiers over a border incident, in notoriously difficult country, who were engaged in a dangerous enterprise in the common interest of Britain and the Republic alike.

Had the Irish concentrated more on being right than righteous, and handed over to the Conservative and Father Bartholomew Burns (to mention but two) to the British authorities for trial, it is highly likely that the power sharing executive in Stormont and the Sunningdale agreement would have survived and Ireland might have been well on its way to *de facto* unity, as it would have been, but for IRA activity, from 1969 onwards. But one can but sympathize with the North's suspicion of the Republic's integrity.

I am a friend of Ireland but friendship is sometimes best served by candour.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID JAMES,  
House of Commons.

## Criticism of the Royal Family

From Mr D. E. Spilsbury

Sir, As one of Tom Litterick's constituents I should like to state my wholehearted support for his political criticism of Philip's political attacks on the welfare state. Ronald Burt (February 10) is too experienced a journalist for anyone to criticize him for having missed the point, therefore his abuse of Tom Litterick and the producer of "Nationwide" must be a deliberate distortion.

But says the Prince had only spoken about "the need for challenge, opportunity and responsibility", something "now being debated in all political parties". The whom? It is true that the welfare state is under attack from the right wing of the Labour Party as much as from the Tory Party, but that is not a reason for the consort to deliver the political arena so blatantly. Litterick, not Burt, is right over the "work" done for the royal wages, and it is typical that Burt now thinks that Philip should be able to comment on what he means to be constant issues, and remain immune to criticism of his own privileged idleness.

Two years ago the Queen was placed by a reputable journal as the richest woman in the world. In her own right, not including all the state property assigned for her personal and official use—and among the top ten personal fortunes irrespective of sex.

Against that background, her husband has been awarded a rise considerably greater than the total earnings of any six average workers! Litterick is far more representative of the opinion of the ordinary working man than Burt.

Yours faithfully,  
D. E. SPILSBURY,  
Robert Court,  
Wake Green Park,  
Maseley,  
Birmingham,  
February 10.

From Mr E. LeQuessne Herbert

Sir, I write to thank Mr Ronald Burt for writing and for publishing the article in today's *Times* (February 10). It must be a welcome relief for so many that you have so rightly condemned, with all your great authority, Litterick, MP, for his sheer nastiness and especially the BBC for providing the platform for its display.

An admission of their mistake and an apology to HM the Queen and her family, by the Director General of the BBC, would also be a relief of some comfort to us all.

Yours faithfully,  
E. LEQUESSNE HERBERT,  
22 Compton Lodge,  
Compton Place Road,  
Eastbourne,  
East Sussex.

## Tone of political memoirs

From Dame Anne Godwin

Sir, Caritiveness and pettiness are supposed to be essentially feminine traits. It is not strange that the two recent practitioners of these arts, in their diaries and memoirs, have been male?

And isn't it odd that in each case our hero's wounded vanity has been aroused by an intelligent, competent and experienced woman?

I look forward to the day when some woman will write a full, frank and realistic book on "men I have worked with". I hope she makes a nice lot of money.

Yours cordially,  
ANNE GODWIN,  
25 Fulbourn Avenue,  
Worcester Park,  
Surrey,  
February 10.

## OUR DEAL FROM THE LIFE OFFICES

all the new ways of that have been developed in years, the traditional endowment policy with its pride of place for middle-aged people and white-collar workers in general. In the case who have these policies been well satisfied by the terms into which they entered. There has, however, been one minor irritation, namely the fact that life assurance companies to policies which one reason or another, rendered. This irritation, me a much more general in these increasingly times.

al endowment policy is for a period of twenty-five years. No one, prudent in his or her affairs, can any longer in that a major change in personal circumstances will not take such a long period, high domestic costs, high domestic unstable property market, sudden unemployment, all combined to make it impossible, over any such a long period, a hundred combinations, reasons why someone imately wish to reorder at short notice. Those, in effect, a substantial

proportion of their savings locked into a life assurance policy with some years to run find that, if they are to mobilize those savings, they have to pay a penalty that is unjustifiably high.

We publish on page 18 a survey of the surrender values currently being paid by a cross section of established and reputable life offices. It reveals quite clearly that, for anyone who fears that he may be forced to surrender a policy before its full term, the traditional endowment policy is an unacceptably risky investment. All the advantage goes to those who stay the full term of their contracts.

The traditional view in the industry is that an endowment policy is a contract. Anyone who surrenders a policy is, therefore, technically breaking that contract. It is questionable, however, whether this legal view is justified in today's economic circumstances. A better balance needs to be drawn between the rights of those who stay the full course and those who are forced to realize their savings.

It goes without saying that there should be some deterrent to frivolous surrender. The initial administrative costs of establishing a policy also make it legitimate for a surrender penalty to be heavy in the early years of a contract. In addition, proper account should be taken of the fact that an endowment policy also provides the policyholder with full life insurance

cover. When all these factors are taken into account, however, it is not satisfactory that people who have been saving for ten and fifteen years get little more than the money back that they have paid in premiums when they are forced to surrender. In some cases they will not even get their money back.

There is an element of paternalism in the attitude of life offices which produces this result. They ought, in our view, to look on themselves more in the light of trustees, for the savings of each individual policyholder. Taking due account of administrative and other costs and having a conservative view of the ups and downs of the investment cycle, life offices should pay surrender values that are related to the part of the invested funds that an individual's premiums to date represent.

It cannot be a good advertisement for the industry that, on present surrender values, a saver would be better off for a given level of premium after ten or fifteen years had he taken out ordinary life insurance and put what was left over on deposit with a bank or building society. If the small print on prevailing surrender values were forcefully drawn to the attention of those on the point of taking out twenty or twenty-five-year endowment policies, many of those who enter into them would be substantially discouraged.

## Czech human rights

From Mr Ken Coates

Sir, Bernard Levin (February 1) is characteristically unjust about the attitude of the left wing to the puppet government of Czechoslovakia.

Since Charter 77 was published by the Czechoslovak opposition, the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation has been canvassing a declaration of solidarity among Socialists and Communists in every European country. Signatures are still coming in daily, but it is already very clear that the overwhelming majority of European Socialists and Communists are in agreement with the courageous people who have challenged the repression in Prague. Already 72 Labour MPs have signed this appeal.

Since I challenge Mr Levin to secure a similar response from Conservative MPs in protest against the bloodthirsty regime in Iran. Perhaps he might invite your distinguished contributor, Lord Chalfont, to help him.

Yours sincerely,  
KEN COATES,  
Director, The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation Limited,  
Gamble Street, Nottingham.

## The future of Mentmore

From Mr Andrew Faulds, MP for Warley East (Labour)

Sir, However much at fault the fiscal system may be and however much bureaucratic bungling may have taken place over the years, it takes two to make a bargain and, in this regard, the silence from Lord Rothery and his agents, Sotheby's, is disturbing.

I must assume that both have a sincere concern for this country's heritage, in which event, I must also assume they are doing their utmost to ensure that the major works of art in Mentmore eventually become accessible to the public in this country. In the meantime, may we hear from them?

Sincerely,  
ANDREW FAULDS,  
House of Commons,  
February 9.

acted the Treasury recently to enquire if gifts to the Fund were tax free. The enthusiastic letter I received a few days later confirmed that this was indeed the case: cheques should be made payable to HM Treasury National Land Fund. Those considering a bequest should contact the Treasury.

I would like to add two further points.

First, as Mentmore has never been opened to the public, there is, arguably, a stronger case for preserving it intact than other stately homes with which a wide public are already familiar. One aspect of Mr Marcus Binney's rescue plan is that he would at least allow us to see a "unique collection before it is transported" en bloc across the ocean.

Second, as the political pundits continuously remind us, we live in an age of dying industrialism, discredited capitalism, environmental pollution, class struggle and over-crowding. All of which are firmly rooted in the Victorian age. Surely we should salvage some of the few good things on which the financial mementoes of that age squandered their profits? For if we lose sight of the Victorian achievement in the Arts, especially their architecture and taste, then we will be left nothing of an extraordinary age except some fine novels and many bitter memories.

Yours sincerely,  
W. IAIN C. CLARK,  
The Master's House Flat,  
St Luke's Hospital,  
Guildford,  
February 7.

From Mr William Gaze

Sir, At a ceremony last September, when Sir Harold Wilson presented a bronze bust of Mrs Melr to the Israel Ambassador, I asked Lady Falkender if Alastair, age 10 years, could have Sir Harold's autograph.

Lady Falkender came back a little later with a piece of paper on which was written "For Alastair from Harold Wilson". Alastair wrote and thanked Lady Falkender and she wrote to Alastair saying how pleased she was to get his letter and that she would show it to Sir Harold.

It may be naive of me to say so, but the trouble she took over one small boy gave quite a few of us, me, his parents, and Alastair himself—a great deal of pleasure.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM GATES,  
909 Hood House,  
Dolphin Square, SW1.

## M 555 TO 561

ishman may be forgiven of regret at the news Pakistanis, Mizra and have quietly displaced record books one of s and Yorkshire's cricketing feats. In earlier this week they ad a world record first partnership of 561, g to second place— ot to obscurity—Holmes dffe who, in 1932, at playing for Yorkshire Essex, fashioned 555 and elegant runs

argue over that scoreboard in Leyton which, 45 years ago, for a few heart-stopping minutes, showed that the Yorkshire pair had not beaten the record after all, but only equalled the 554 set up by their fellow Yorkshiremen Tunnick and Brown a generation before? The undeniability of the figure 561, too, compares unsatisfactorily with the perfect symmetry of 555. The delighted firm of cigarette manufacturers whose product bore those digits gratefully sent a crate to the Yorkshire team, who, Bill Bowes relates, smoked themselves silly. It is hard to visualize a Karachi dressing room full of products called 561.

Perhaps the most disconcerting aspect of the Pakistanis' feat was its unexpectedness. So accustomed has today's cricket enthusiast become to match that the possibility of partnerships of that size has been largely discounted. Nothing like that has been seen for thirty years, since the two biggest stands of all, for any

wicket (577 and 574) were made. The first wicket record was one which England could reasonably have expected to keep, and the shock of it being taken away is the greater for that reason. In fact, Mizra and Akhtar took less than seven hours, nearly an hour faster than Holmes and Sutcliffe had taken.

The sadness is that the record will never come back to England. Quite apart from the general lack of batsmen talented enough individually and, more important, in combination to achieve such scores (Greenidge and Richards of Hampshire are possible exceptions) the rules of county cricket no longer permit more than 100 overs to be bowled in an innings. The scoring rate required could not in practice be attained. It is striking, too, that the record was broken by two batsmen not thought good enough to tour with the Pakistan national side. That may suggest a depth of batting strength which England may have cause to fear in years to come.

## Napoleon's coat

From Miss Rosemary De Saumarez

Sir, I think I can answer the queries in your issue of 10th February. The letter of January 18, as to whether the dark green uniform coat, lately bought by the Duke of Wellington, was worn by Napoleon at Waterloo, and how came into the possession of the Blichers.

The late Count Alec Blicher told me it was not worn by Napoleon during the battle but was one of the uniform coats placed in coaches near the area fought over. This was far Napoleon to be able to change his coat if necessary to prevent the discouragement of his troops had they seen him in a mud-spattered or blood-stained uniform. This coat, and the coach it was in, were sent to Germany by Marshal Blicher, after the battle.

Count Alec's father, Count Lothar Blicher, went to Radun, the Blichers' house in Silesia in 1922, to fetch the coach to Germany, but it was so dilapidated it had to be destroyed—just about three years before the ceremonial carriage, sent to the Prince Regent, was burnt at Madame Tussaud's.

Each year in planning a battle of Napoleon, and part of his greatness as a general to which Wellington paid so high a tribute, as quoted by Mr Gilmour in an earlier letter on this subject.

In a letter written on March 23, 1815, Napoleon, lately returned to Paris from exile in Elba, sent instructions to the Governor of that island for a canary-coloured travelling carriage, a state carriage and two coaches to be sent with other of his possessions to Paris. These may have included the vehicles used at Waterloo.

Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY DE SAUMAREZ,  
Les Chânes Verts,  
Mont Marché, Forest, Guernsey, G.I.

## Education cuts

From Mrs Mary Acton

Sir, At our local primary school the educational clock will soon be put back 20 years. At a meeting recently the headmaster told us the disturbing news of a decision by our county council to cut the number of its teachers from five to 3.8, in September, 1977.

There are 139 children in our school. Whatever the new planned pupil teacher ratios may be, with only 3.8 teachers this is going to make the classes far too big. Over the whole county the intention is to remove a total of 464 teachers. Is this just the easiest economy, the one least likely to cause trouble, political or otherwise?

The sum our council wishes to save is £5 million, £21 million of which is to come from education. This seems grossly unfair. Why not:

1. Cut out the cost of providing school lunches.
2. Collect our dustbins once a fortnight instead of once a week.
3. Cut down on administrative staff.
4. Instead of using £2.7 million of their reserves to keep the rates down by 3p in the pound, use it to offset the cuts in teachers.

The first years at school, where the attitude to learning is inculcated and receptivity is at its greatest, are the ones least able to stand the knife. The economies of today will be the educational over-draft of tomorrow.

At the other end of the spectrum, the idea of a "Tertiary Stage of Education", as reported in *The Times* on January 29, is expansion at the expense of this vital early period. Instead, why not marry up the nursery schools and playgroups into a "Pre-School Stage of Education"?

Is the Government's reason for concentrating on the older children political, because of unemployment? Education should be a matter of principle and not an element of party policy; thrown like a parcel

from one government to another, to be done up or undone at will.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY ACTON,  
Walnuts, Mackney,  
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell,  
Wallingford, Oxfordshire.

## Nuclear power

From Mrs R. M. Phelps

Sir, Mr Arthur Palmer (MP Bristol North-East) (*The Times*, February 9) suggests all people opposed to fast breeder nuclear reactors, and "extreme environmentalists" should retire to desert islands to practise what they preach! One could equally ask industrialists to practise their materialism in deserts or polar caps. Why don't they take their highly toxic products away from this crowded country and develop an industrial area with "limitless nuclear energy", where accidents will only harm those close to the reactors?

More seriously, however, I feel that a country which panics about a future energy crisis and then markets 3-litre cars, raises rates on well insulated properties and condones the build council accommodation which is ununsulated and expensively heated, should take a long look at its priorities.

Yours faithfully,  
SANDRA PHELPS,  
162 Broadway,  
Farnborough,  
Northamptonshire.

## birds

W. R. P. Bourne

photographs which you on February 9, showing helicopter crew liberating "leashed oil" by the CA on the Goodwin Sands by refused to leave the wide ground for concern. research programmes at in castle University and have shown that the most factor governing birds' to return to the sea is of their plumage, so that waterproof they refuse to therefore seems likely that the last Torrev Canyon the RSPCA were returned to the sea to drown. interesting to observe that recent DoE Central Unit mental Pollution of the Paper dented Oil Pollution of the threat to sea-

birds, its statements were in some ways inaccurate; for example, regarding the comparative risk posed by oil on the water and ashore while no proposals were put forward for dealing with the problem. While the RSPCA have also recently established a rehabilitation centre, with their share of the money subscribed to help birds affected by oil from the Torrev Canyon, it is located in south-west Britain, at the opposite extremity of the country from the area where the worst threat now occurs, and it seems doubtful how many oiled birds have been rescued. So far as I can make out, little attempt has yet been made anywhere to experiment with more effective ways of preventing birds from becoming oiled in the first place.

In the circumstances, it is perhaps fortunate that (ignoring their other drawbacks) North Sea oil developments are in fact proving

rather less prone to cause pollution than an equivalent volume of shipping. Despite earlier gloomy prognostications, so far I have only managed to trace one bird actually polluted with North Sea oil. None the less, oil pollution from both tankers, and in some of the worst cases merchant ships, still persists, and we still await the formulation of more effective action to deal with it by both official and voluntary bodies, which have become somewhat complacent recently. It is really not enough to call up a helicopter to dump unwilling birds back in the sea. It is time we were presented with some clearer proposals for action to prevent the birds becoming oiled.

Yours faithfully,  
W. R. P. BOURNE,  
3 Conlaur Place,  
Miltmber,  
Aberdeen,  
February 9.

to fetch the coach to Germany, but it was so dilapidated it had to be destroyed—just about three years before the ceremonial carriage, sent to the Prince Regent, was burnt at Madame Tussaud's.

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Yours faithfully,  
ROSEMARY DE SAUMAREZ,  
Les Chânes Verts,  
Mont Marché, Forest, Guernsey, G.I.

## Settlement in Rhodesia

From The Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Brunel University

Sir, To lump together the peoples of Mashonaland and Matabeleland under one alien flag and call it Rhodesia is one thing; to perpetuate this unnatural association even if the name is changed to Zimbabwe is quite another. These two peoples have never shown much liking or respect for each other and any attempt to combine them under one flag (without the alien presence) is almost certain to lead to bitter conflict.

The only workable answer, as I see it, would be an independent Mashonaland in the north and an independent Matabeleland (or Zimbabwe if preferred) in the south, with Salisbury and Bulawayo, respectively, the two capitals.

Yours faithfully,  
J. D. GILLET,  
School of Biological Sciences,  
Brunel University,  
Uxbridge, Middlesex.

## A plea for the encore

From Mr Alex Auswaks

Sir, I would like to appeal, through your columns, to all performers to restore the encore. I cannot remember the last time I went to a concert and heard an encore given by the performers. (Andre Segovia not only gives encores, but even talks to his audience.)

There may be reasons, such as the need for musicians and staff in concert halls to get home after a long day. But one or two encores would give pleasure to many people, and I am sure there are performers who would welcome an opportunity to give just that little bit more to their audiences.

Please bring back the encore!

Yours sincerely,  
ALEX AUSWAKS,  
151 Riverside Road,  
St Albans,  
Hertfordshire.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**CLARENCE HOUSE**  
February 11: Mrs Patrick Campbell-Pringle had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this afternoon when Her Majesty, on behalf of the Queen, invested her with the insignia of a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent will attend the premiere of the film *Nickelodeon* in aid of the Royal British Legion at the ABC Cinema, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, on March 3.

Princess Alexandra will be present at a gala performance by Elton John in aid of the Queen's silver jubilee appeal at the Rainbow Theatre, Finsbury Park, London, on May 2.

## Birthdays today

The Hon Anthony Berry, MP, 32; Lord Stothley, 77; Sir David Bruce, 79; Sir James Dunnett, 63; Sir Derek Bebb, 72; Lord Cranville, 78; Lord Gifford, 78; Sir Roy Harrod, 77; Sir Neville Pearson, 79; Sir John Hopton, MP, 58; Sir Francis Pym, MP, 55; Sir George Simmonds, 74.

**TOMORROW:** Sir Hubert Ashmore, 79; Lieutenant-General Sir Roger Bower, 74; Earl Cadogan, 63; Professor Dame Helen Gardener, 68; Colonel Sir Douglas Hogg, 69; Sir Roy Harrod, 77; Sir Neville Pearson, 79; Sir John Hopton, MP, 58; Sir Francis Pym, MP, 55; Sir George Simmonds, 74.

## Prince is made a Royal Knight of the Thistle

The Queen has appointed the Prince of Wales a Royal Knight of the Thistle, Scotland's oldest order of chivalry, it was announced yesterday. He will be invested and installed at service in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on May 23, during the silver jubilee visit to Scotland.

## 'Survival' awards

Two programmes in the Anglia Television *Survival* series have won Christopher awards, given in the United States to programmes judged to be of the highest quality. The Anglia programmes, about spiders and orang utans, were transmitted last September.

## Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh

The following have been elected Officers of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh:  
Dr D. M. Mitchell, honorary consultant physician, A.D. President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Dr E. J. Macdonald, President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Dr J. E. Macdonald, President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh; Dr J. E. Macdonald, President, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

## Latest wills

### Residue for benefit of the elderly

Miss Rosaline Edith Coleman, of Wolverhampton, died £112,923 net. After personal and charitable bequests, the residue for the benefit of old people's charities.  
Mrs Mabel Payne, of Stratford-on-Avon, died £73,876 net. After personal bequests, the residue for the benefit of old people's charities.  
Mrs Mabel Payne, of Stratford-on-Avon, died £73,876 net. After personal bequests, the residue for the benefit of old people's charities.

## Reception

Mrs V. O'Donovan  
The chairman and Mrs Vincent O'Donovan gave a reception for the officers, ladies, members and guests of Kensington and Chelsea for Europe at the Tolpeltol of Ischia restaurant, Taverton Avenue, on Thursday evening. Mr John Pinder also spoke. Among the guests were: Mrs O'Donovan, Mrs Vincent O'Donovan, Mrs Vincent O'Donovan, Mrs Vincent O'Donovan.

## Diners

Lord Brockway  
Lord Brockway entertained members and guests of the International Cultural Exchange at dinner in the House of Lords yesterday. Those present included: Lord Brockway, Lord Brockway, Lord Brockway, Lord Brockway.

## Memorial service

Wing Commander J. Lawson  
A memorial service for Wing Commander James Lawson, RAF, was held yesterday at St Clement Danes, Strand. The Rev G. R. Renouard officiated. The Van J. H. Wilson pronounced the blessing. Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Walker, vice-patron, RAF Rugby Union, read the lesson and Mr Cyril Gadeny, a vice-president of the R.A.F. Rugby Union, gave an address. Among those present were: Sir and Mrs R. S. McDonald, Mr and Mrs J. H. Wilson, Mr and Mrs J. H. Wilson, Mr and Mrs J. H. Wilson.

# The liberty of man caught between God's will and Caesar's

By Paul Oestreicher  
Chairman of Amnesty International  
Jesus was a dissident. His moderate non-conformity led to his death. Biblical scholars disagree whether he was primarily sentenced for religious or for political reasons. The spiritual authorities, whom he publicly likened to a breed of vipers, must have deeply resented his exposure of their hypocrisy and greed. The Romans were doubtless more concerned about his real or potential following, the mob looking for a leader. His direct action at the Temple, with evident popular support, disturbed the peace and itself might have sufficed to incur charges of both blasphemy and sedition. And, as he predicted, his executioners undoubtedly believed they were doing good. His moderate he could have saved himself, his closest followers and the authorities a great deal of unpleasantness.

Like the prophets before and the martyrs since, Jesus was demonstrating the nature of religious liberty. The glorious liberty of the children of God of which St Paul wrote, is put

to the test when God's will and Caesar's clash. Citizenship is, by definition, subversive of injustice in all societies. Hauled before the authorities in Jerusalem, Peter simply proclaimed: "We must obey God rather than men." Peter and Paul, tradition has it, were both executed. Jesus had shown that love is possible. The Father's will can be done. At great cost. Bonhoeffer knew of that freedom. When the Gestapo came to hang him he took leave of his friends with hope; his life's end was also its beginning.

That is the context in which the Church of England's General Synod next week debates its responsibility in the field of human rights. Like the religion of slavery, the affirmation of religious liberty is a relatively new idea, not least among Christians. The churches have only reluctantly relevant from secular humanism what is implicit in their gospel. For centuries the punishment for heresy was death. The Inquisition was not a brief aberration. The tolerance and freedom for which even Paul had to plead in the early church was soon rejected. The Temple tradition prevailed. It is an irony of

history that Orthodox and Evangelical Christians suffer together today in Soviet Russia. Before 1917 the Evangelicals were the victims of the Orthodox majority. And for all today's hardships, Polish Protestants would shudder at the thought of a return to the days of Catholic power. There is a double irony. One of Marx's dreams was that socialism would put an end to the tyranny of dogma. The Kremlin rulers reinstated the inquisition just as Christians were painfully learning to repudiate it.

There is then no place for Christian self-righteousness. In Britain religious toleration did not come without centuries of bitter bloodshed of which the present Irish aftermath is part. Islam remains intolerant? We were the crusaders. Jews remain unreconciled? In our century, Christians allowed five million to go to the gas chambers. At no time did the churches put themselves at risk to save the Jews. But Jesus was with them in the few who, despite the institution, with them to their death. Communists remain hostile to Christians. No more—and no less—than ardent Christians

who persecute communists in many parts of the world. The scores are tragically even. Yet the tradition set by Jesus has never died. Often despite their churches, some Christians have struggled for that new humanity which is for all, friend and foe alike. They have not been punished for worshipping God but for siding with the outcast. They are the living expression of "God's judgment on every form of alienation, oppression and discrimination" (Lausanne Evangelical Congress, 1974). It is not for saving Mass, but for living Communism, by demanding land for hungry peasants, that Dom Helder Camara's chapel was burned down in Brazil. Dr Billy Graham can fill a stadium in Seoul with evangelical preaching, and go unopposed. The few who then apply that gospel by pleading for the victims of police terror now share their prison cells.

Religious liberty for a Christian does not find its highest expression in indignation at the suffering of the fellow Christians, but in a common commitment with them to prayer and action for that new humanity which Jesus called

the Kingdom. In that new order the liberation of the tortured matters no less than that of his victim. Nor is religious liberty primarily about the freedom to worship God. Hitler would not have killed them for doing that. He killed them for loving Jews. That was their service. It is all there in the parable of the Last Judgment: "In whatever way you failed the least of my brothers," said Jesus "you have failed me." Religious liberty, for Christians, includes the right and indeed the duty to oppose injustice in word and deed.

Next week those of us who make up the Church of England's "parliament" will do well to take to heart some words of Gerald Winstanley, leader of the Diggers, a seventeenth-century protest movement of the English peasantry against the worldliness of the Church and the tyranny of the rich. From bitter experience he wrote: "There are few who are for freedom, and the actors for the suffering of the fellow Christians, but in a common commitment with them to prayer and action for that new humanity which Jesus called

## OBITUARY MISS GRACE WILLIAM

**Versatile Welsh composer**  
Grace Williams, the Welsh composer, who died on February 10, was born at Barry, Glamorgan, on February 19, 1906.  
After taking a BMus at Cardiff, she went to London to the Royal College of Music, where she was a pupil of Dr. Vaughan Williams. She was one of a small group of composers who became lifelong friends.  
In 1930 she went with the Octavia travelling scholarship to Vienna where she studied with Egon Wellesz, who had a high opinion of her as a composer. For a time she worked on the educational side of the BBC in London, but eventually returned to Wales, and lived for the rest of her life in Barry, working freelance, principally for the Welsh Region of the BBC. There were broad-based butter jobs, her real career was writing music, and she kept up an outstanding stream of works: two symphonies; an orchestral suite *Penillion* (a Proms commission); a violin concerto; "sea sketches" for string orchestra; *Misses* (concertos for Llanelli Cathedral); a choral suite; and a large number of choral pieces and solo songs, as well as well-known Welsh folk songs, opera, *The Parloir*, *Maupassant* short most successfully Welsh National Op. She was one of the commissioned to write for the investment of Wales.  
Her technical was mastery, par her command of it and in writing for was a first-class musician, with a knowledge of an always knew, and own mind; she own opinions on them.  
Her works are performed in Wales and elsewhere. Her Welsh musicians generous interest composers and a k humour. For 15 1946 she taught School for Girls, but then returned home. She had a d Wales, and of the enduring affection home at Barry, where she died.

## MR G. V. FERGUSON

**M.A.E. writes:**  
George Victor Ferguson, who died on January 26 in Montreal in his seventy-ninth year, was one of the ablest and most influential Commonwealth newspaper editors.  
Born in Cupar, Fife, he emigrated when young and was educated at the University of Alberta and at Oxford. He belonged to a group of his generation, most of them Rhodes scholars like himself, whose spectacular abilities were to enhance Canadian universities, public service and public life during a critical era.  
His long, richly varied career included a short stint on the foreign desk of *The Times* and a rewarding association with *The Times Literary Supplement*, but his first serious contribution was to be made on the *Winnipeg Free Press*, where he became right-hand man to the editor, the late J. W. Daffoe. Daffoe helped to shape Ferguson's powerful mind and unerring sense of style at a time when the *Winnipeg Free Press* was, perhaps apocryphally, regarded as equal in quality, if not in circulation, to the *Bathurst Standard* and the *Christiansburg Science Monitor*. Ferguson was part of the strong editorial team which ultimately succeeded Daffoe, he was made managing editor in 1934 and executive editor in 1944.  
Few excelled him in a profound awareness of the Canadian political scene and the economic realities underlying it. He was dedicated to the interests of western Canadian agriculture, and saw it into some stability in time for the massive war effort so swiftly to follow the disastrous drought and depression of the 1930s. His contributions to the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, the consistency of his editorial policies, and his services to the

## PRESIDENT AHMED

Mr Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India since August, 1974, died of a heart attack in New Delhi yesterday at the age of 71. He was the second Muslim to hold the office—the first was Dr Zakir Husain in the late 1950s and he was the fifth president since independence was gained.  
A veteran and faithful, if colourless, supporter of his old leader, Mr Jawaharlal Nehru, and his daughter, Mrs Indira Gandhi, Ahmed was born in Delhi in May, 1905, the son of an Indian medical official, and in his mother's family, claimed descent from Mirza Ghalib, the Urdu poet.  
He read history at St Catherine's College, Cambridge, was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple, and returning to India in 1931, joined the Congress. He was twice imprisoned before the era of his rise in India. He was active in Assam from 1935, and in the Indian Cabinet of Irrigation and Public Works in the same year. Education Minister in 1957, he was heavily over production 1972 after serious.  
As Congress president in 1974, was opposed part ground that India have a Muslim pre-eminence in the Party and Muslim, coring the electo voting, he actually from some opposit and was elected w per cent of the total.  
Mr Ahmed, who 1945, had two sons a ter.

## MR E. SPENCER SHEW

Mr Edward Spencer Shew, a political journalist at Westminster who died yesterday in a nursing home at Weston-super-Mare, aged 68, was a well-known lobby correspondent for 15 years, from 1953 to 1968, he was honorary secretary of the Parliamentary Lobby Journalists, and was chairman in 1968-69.  
Spencer Shew had been political correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph agency for 20 years, and was in 1965. From 1969 retirement in 1977 political correspondent Press Association.  
His books on crisis a two-volume work in 1968, which in 1969 *Edgar Allan Poe* by Mystery Writers of Another book, on Ripper, was made i His wife, also an a some years ago.

## Longboats greet the Queen in Samoa

Apia, Feb. 11.—The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived here in Western Samoa on board the royal yacht Britannia today to begin a tour which also includes Tonga, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia and Papua New Guinea.  
Four longboats, each manned by 40 rowers, greeted the royal yacht as thousands of Samoans watched from wharves and beaches. Three bands played at the pier where the Britannia tied up and a royal salute fired by shore batteries boomed over the water.  
The royal couple had earlier landed at Pago Pago, in American Samoa, after a long flight from London by way of Los Angeles. They then transferred to the yacht for the silver jubilee tour of the southern Pacific.  
After their arrival at Apia, the Queen held a reception in the royal yacht. Wearing a light green floral dress, white hat with green band and white gloves and shoes, she showed no sign of fatigue after her flight from London.  
Tomorrow she will have a busy schedule, including a traditional welcoming ceremony by the Samoans, who achieved independence in 1962. The royal party will drive through Apia and visit Vaialima, the home of Robert Louis Stevenson, the nineteenth-century writer, and the beautiful country of the Queen and Prince Philip will leave in the Britannia for Tonga—Reuter.



President Giscard d'Estaing decorates Marc Chagall, the painter, with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour during a luncheon at the Elysée palace yesterday.

## Theatre writers divided on pay negotiations

By Kenneth Gosling  
Theatre writers are divided over which of their organizations, the recently formed Writers' Guild, which speaks for writers in other fields as well, should represent them in negotiations with the National Theatre about pay.  
The theatre wants constructive negotiation, but recognizes only the TUC-affiliated Writers' Guild as the official negotiating body; it was nominated for the purpose by the Federation of Theatre Unions.  
The guild has had a meeting with the Theatre Writers' Union about representation. The union has 150 members and says that many of them receive inadequate compensation for their work.  
The union quotes the case of Howard Brenton, who wrote *Weapons of Happiness* for the National Theatre and recently won a London Evening Standard drama award for that work. He received £150 for the play, the union said.  
The National Theatre said yesterday that Mr Brenton received that figure on signing the contract to commission the play. He received a further £150 on acceptance of the script, and £250 as a 12-month contract extension because of building delays at the theatre. He also gets a minimum of 7½ per cent on royalties.

## Effects of some developments 'need research'

By a Staff Reporter  
The environmental impact of some big development projects may need research, according to a report published yesterday by the Department of the Environment. It covers the techniques and procedures required to have been written by two planning experts. The department has published it to gauge reaction.  
Most projects, the report says, are dealt with adequately by local government, but there may be between 25 and 60 a year where the scale of the development is taken in conjunction with the existing environmental conditions, is such that large-scale and complex environmental impacts still occur.  
The report recommends a procedure for setting up machinery to ensure that the appropriate planning authorities are aware of the effects of their projects on the environment, and their equivalents, the authors believe.  
**Research Report II: Environmental Impact Assessment** (Mr L. H. Marshall, Director, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1, E15S).

## Rare Ushak carpet is sold for £42,000

By Geraldine Norman  
Two rare antique carpets were offered for sale by Lefevre and Partners yesterday. A star Ushak carpet from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century was sold for £42,000 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000). It measures 13ft 3in by 10ft 6in, and is made of wool, silk and cotton. The other carpet, a large Ushak, was sold for £33,000 (estimate £25,000 to £40,000). Both carpets were made in Persia. There was also an eighteenth-century Ushak carpet from Turkey, 10ft 6in by 8ft 6in, which was sold for £2,500 (estimate £1,500 to £3,500). The sale contained 58 pieces, of which all but one were sold, making a total of £180,000. The Lefevre auction room over shadowed a carpet sale at Sotheby's. They had 97 lots of Persian and Turkish carpets, an experimental specialist rug sale, combined with about a hundred lots of oak furniture. The sale totalled £10,130, with 23 per cent unsold.  
The main unsold lots were in the carpet section. A rare Persian Kermanshah rug, 6ft 6in by 5ft, a nineteenth-century piece in good condition, with a £1,500 (estimate £500 to £2,500). Christie's sold two Continental pictures for a total of £246,500, at 25 per cent unsold: that percentage indicated important unsold lots such as a vast Eugene Delacroix, "The Battle of Waterloo," bought in 1910, and a 19th-century painting, "The Battle of Waterloo," bought in 1910, and a 19th-century painting, "The Battle of Waterloo," bought in 1910.

## Sea pollution talks to resume in Venice

From Our Correspondent  
Athens, Feb. 11  
Sixteen Mediterranean countries, after a one-week meeting in Athens, agreed today on the principles of a protocol to control land-based sources of pollution, but decided that they needed further discussions before binding themselves to a treaty.  
Mr Peter Thacher, European director for the United Nations Environment Programme which organized the Athens meeting, told a press conference that further discussions would be held in Venice in mid-October. The Athens meeting was a success. The governments have identified the principles they want included in the protocol," he said. "But in some cases they were not able to resolve some technical aspects."

## Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr David Young, MP for Bolton, East, to be parliamentary private secretary to the Minister, Secretary of State for Defence.  
**Prospective candidates**  
Mr John Bloom, aged 42, a research officer with the National Institute of Research in Cancer, was a prospective Labour candidate for Croydon, South. At the general election in 1974, he was a three-cornered fight.

## University news

**Leeds**  
The Leeds University Council has agreed to accept a proposal to make a two-year study of student health and the effects of stress on the university in England and Wales.  
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The Leeds University Council has agreed to accept a proposal to make a two-year study of student health and the effects of stress on the university in England and Wales.

## Science report Bacteriology: Sale of 'toxins'

It has been made clear by Mr Gilbert, Minister of State for Defence, that bacteria advertised for sale in kilogram quantities by the Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton Down (MRE) are not dangerous, but destined for use as biological weapons. Some confusion has been caused by statements attributed to the Microbiological Society that "all these bacteria are dangerous toxins," and "any laboratory that is going to use them must use the same time grow them themselves."  
Bacteria may be pathogens (disease-causing organisms) but they cannot be toxins (poisonous substances) because toxins are chemical substances produced by bacteria which produce toxins. Of bacteria often produce toxins, of which the most dangerous is botulinum toxin, which is a powerful neurotoxin. It is the MRE however, most a toxin.

## Today's engagements

Exhibition: Hofmann and his world. Victoria and Albert Museum, 10-6.  
Exhibition: Reproductions of Japanese prints, 1700-1900. Arts Council Shop, 28 Saville Street, 10-2.  
International Furniture Show. Earl's Court, 9-5.  
Albert Court Show. Olympia, 9-5.  
Ornithological walk. New Gardens; meet Victoria Gate, 10.30.

## Tomorrow

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attend concert in aid of Cancer Research Campaign at Royal Albert Hall, 7.40.  
Exhibition: Unofficial Russian art. ICA Galleries, The Mall, 2-6.

## Correction

Research on new potato viruses mentioned in the article on November 14, 1976, was carried out at the Scottish Horticultural Research Institute, not the Scottish Plant Breeding Station.

## Services tomorrow

**St Paul's Cathedral, London**  
8.30. Morning Prayer. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
10.30. Evensong. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
12.30. Lunch. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
2.30. Afternoon Prayer. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
4.30. Evensong. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
6.30. Evening Prayer. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.  
8.30. Night Prayer. Rev. Canon J. H. Jones, Rector.

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SPORT

Athletics  
Capes may benefit from sneak preview

By Cliff Temple  
Athletics Correspondent

Only a small handful of the British athletes competing in today's indoor international match against Spain in San Sebastian can expect to return to the newly completed arena for the European indoor championships on March 12 and 13. Traditionally we send only a small team of potential finalists, and nothing that has happened this indoor season is likely to alter the selectors' normal policy.

But those enjoying a sneak preview of the track on which they hope to win medals next month, Geoffrey Capes and Mary Stewart seem the most likely to be able to return in the optimistic frame of mind. Capes will not have forgotten that it was in an indoor match against Spain in 1974 that he first set the European indoor 500m record and then went on to win the European title some weeks later. It would be a good omen if he were able to improve his current record of 1:58.11 this year, only last month he was within two inches of that distance.

The Spanish opposition in this event, could possibly evoke the necessary cerebral boost for Capes, but even so, it is hard to expect a victory by as big a margin as 79 points to 43, as they did in 1974. They have already undertaken a grueling journey from Genoa to the second half of this short indoor tour.

Stewart has, within 10 days, run the fastest indoor 1500 metres by a British woman (4min 55sec) and the second fastest 500 metres (1:58.11). She is in superb form and, as members



David Bedford (left) and Ray Smedley, hoping to reestablish themselves on grass and wood respectively.

of the Stewart family rarely miss time their peak, should be going even faster next month.

Her experience and willingness to return a sharp elbow in races, add to her European 1500 metres championship chances, and today's race in the 800 metres should be something of an exhibition for her. Unlike the match against Italy on Wednesday, there are no points for the women's events today.

Ray Smedley, who has had several magnificent indoor runs at Concord this winter and qualified for two events at the European championships, the 1500 and 3000 metres, will be out to reestablish himself today as a medal prospect. He moves back to his strong distance, the 3000 metres, after a disappointing 1500 against Italy. He has been freely mixing fast racing with his cross-country stints across heavy mud in a vain attempt to retain his British University title at Guildford last Saturday, which was probably not the best preparation for a mid-week

Racing

Morley and Gandolfo fined for use of steroids

The Jockey Club stewards, holding their first inquiry into the use of anabolic steroids in horses, cracked down hard in London yesterday on two young trainers, David Morley and David Gandolfo, fining them £1,500 and £2,000 respectively. The stewards took the unprecedented step of banning the four horses involved until the end of the season. Morley's head lad, John Wilson, was fined £100.

The stewards' decision was based on seven hours at Turf headquarters to hear the cases separately. Mr Morley, who trains at Bury St Edmunds, was the first to appear. Both trainers were represented by a barrister, Edward Casale.

The inquiries followed a big breakthrough by Newmarket forensic scientists last year when their research, which produced the answer to detecting the presence in horses of steroids—the muscle building drugs. Tests on three Morley-trained horses in last year's Stewards' Handicap (Nov. 23), Roundabout (Southwell, December 15) and Star of the Arctic (Towcester, December 22) all produced positive results. The substance found in their urine was, the active agent of the anabolic steroid.

After hearing expert evidence—the witnesses included both trainers and veterinary surgeons—the stewards found that the horses had received a non-normal substance that could affect their racing performance. They were reclassified that the drugs had been administered by Mr Morley's head lad on the instructions of the trainers. Morley was fined £500 a horse for breaking two doping rules. All three horses were disqualified from the races they won.

Mr Gandolfo, 37, looking visibly white-faced and shaken, commented: "I cannot say anything. I am very disappointed. This is my fourth season training and, the first time I have appeared before the Jockey Club stewards. Hopefully it will be the last."

Mr Gandolfo, 33, trains at Wantage and has held a licence since 1960. His gelding, The Clerk, who has been under treatment for four years with a liver complaint, produced positive dope tests for steroids, both after winning a Stewards' Handicap (November 25), and finishing second at Leicester on December 8. Mr Gandolfo was fined £250 for each race.

The result brought an angry statement from Mr Gandolfo who said: "I am very disappointed. I have been training for 15 years and have never had a problem with doping. I have acted in accordance with all current professional practice on all the horses available and what evidence was not challenged, that the stewards should see fit to impose more than the minimum fine. I am a member of the British Horseracing Association and I could do to avoid a breach of the Rules of Racing. I can see no reason or justification for the disqualification of my horse for the rest of this season."

The breakthrough in steroid testing was finally achieved by Newmarket forensic scientists, thanks to a rare breed of sheep called Suiy, a semi-wild variety found on the Atlantic island of St. Kilda. The stewards had to find an antibody in sufficient quantity and rabbits had proved unsatisfactory. Out of the blue, the sheep were tried and produced the required antibody in considerable and reliable quantities.

The Jockey Club clearly intend to continue a relentless clamp-down on the improper use of drugs, particularly anabolic steroids. Following yesterday's inquiries, the stewards have categorised a substance other than a normal nutrient which could affect the performance of a horse. Like a number of other drugs used quite properly under veterinary advice, anabolic steroids, however, there is a danger that traces of the substance may be found in routine analysis following a substance abuse test.

The stewards therefore reiterate the previous advice to trainers that while most drugs will be excused, anabolic steroids will not. We will penalise severely those responsible for any breach of the Rules of Racing.

All roads of form lead to Artifice

By Michael Seely

Artifice can become the shortest priced favourite since Persimmon's triumph in the £15,000 Stewards' Handicap at Newbury this afternoon. True Lad and Tiegolino may be the ones to follow him home. The Dunce, at 25-1, could be the best outsider in the race.

Having suggested Artifice at the likely winner when his price was 16-1 and having pointed out True Lad's chances when 20-1, it was available, I fear that disaster is bound to strike this afternoon, but the Somerset-trained Artifice, who has been prepared for this gruelling contest since the start of his career, has the soundest possible claim. Early last season John Thorne's six-year-old captured three novice hurdles in great style. He was thought to be suffering from the effects of acclimatisation when crowned by The Dunce at Newbury and when finishing unplaced at Parkhill at Cheltenham. Artifice's two victories in his only races this season have certainly borne out the trainer's contention. With 10st 10lb to carry, Artifice could be the one to beat in an otherwise tightly knit handicap. A comfortable defeat of Zelleman at Wincanton and a decisive victory in the Motworthy Hurdle at Kempton Park have shown Artifice to be in sparkling form.

All roads of form lead to Artifice, who escaped a penalty for this afternoon's race after his last success. Principally Storm and The Dunce, third and fourth at Kempton, finished 20 lengths clear of their nearest rivals when fighting out the finish of a race at Wincanton last week. I am putting up The Dunce as an each-way chance because he will revel in the testing conditions underfoot. Alaska Highway, only sixth to Artifice at Kempton, further enhanced the form when third at Gillingham, Storm and Fighting Taffy at Sandown Park last Saturday.

True Lad's claims are based on his excellent record on his form to date. True Lad won the Great Metropolitan Handicap on the flat at Epsom last summer

and, in his first outing over hurdles in nine months, he looked dangerous in Sea Piceon's race at Haydock Park until lack of condition found him out after the second last. Tommy Stark rides the stayer, who has been pleased by his trainer, Queen Elizabeth, Mother's 10-year-old to defy top weight of his first two races. He was able to ask when weight to Sandown and Earlyton and Sandown could win this race but is not completely clear danger to come from Dulwich himself when Fox at Cheltenham. Tiegolino then lost his form. In the three days since, Steepchase and Winner's notice, to beat Sandown National and Middle.

STATE OF FORM  
bumpy. Hurdles course soft. Monday: Tiegolino.

Newbury programme

[Television (BBC 1): 1.30, 2.0 and 2.40 races]

1.30 MINORS' NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £1,046; 2m)

101	22-1	True Star (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
102	13-2	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
103	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
104	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
105	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
106	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
107	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
108	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
109	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
110	10-1	Black Jack (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.0 NEWBURY SPRING STEEPCHASE (Limited Handicap: £2,536; 2m 160yds)

201	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
202	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
203	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
204	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
205	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
206	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
207	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
208	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
209	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
210	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.40 SCHEPPERS GOLD TROPHY (Handicap Hurdle: £12,724; 2m)

241	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
242	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
243	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
244	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
245	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
246	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
247	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
248	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
249	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
250	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

Wolverhampton programme

[Television (IBA): 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]

1.30 FORDHOUSES STEEPCHASE (Div I: Novices: £492; 2m)

131	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
132	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
133	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
134	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
135	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
136	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
137	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
138	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
139	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
140	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.0 MITCHELLS AND BUTLERS STEEPCHASE (Handicap: £1,330; 3m)

201	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
202	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
203	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
204	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
205	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
206	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
207	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
208	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
209	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
210	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.30 H. GRAY HILL HURDLE (Handicap: £1,438; 2m 75)

231	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
232	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
233	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
234	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
235	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
236	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
237	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
238	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
239	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
240	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

3.0 PANAMA CIGAR HURDLE (Qualifier: 5-y-o: £1,559; 2m)

301	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
302	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
303	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
304	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
305	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
306	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
307	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
308	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
309	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
310	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

4.0 WEST MIDLANDS HUNTER STEEPCHASE (£375; 3m)

401	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
402	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
403	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
404	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
405	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
406	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
407	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
408	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
409	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
410	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

4.30 WELLINGTON HURDLE (Handicap: £637; 2m)

431	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
432	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
433	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
434	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
435	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
436	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
437	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
438	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
439	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
440	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

5.0 WEST MIDLANDS HUNTER STEEPCHASE (£375; 3m)

501	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
502	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
503	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
504	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
505	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
506	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
507	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
508	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
509	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
510	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

5.30 WELLINGTON HURDLE (Handicap: £637; 2m)

531	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
532	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
533	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
534	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
535	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
536	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
537	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
538	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
539	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
540	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

5.50 WEST MIDLANDS HUNTER STEEPCHASE (£375; 3m)

551	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
552	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
553	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
554	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
555	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
556	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
557	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
558	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
559	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
560	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

6.0 WEST MIDLANDS HUNTER STEEPCHASE (£375; 3m)

601	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
602	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
603	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
604	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
605	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
606	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
607	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
608	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
609	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
610	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

Catterick Bridge programme

[Television (IBA): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

1.45 BROUGH HURDLE (Div I: Part I: Novices: £1,046; 2m)

101	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
102	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
103	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
104	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
105	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
106	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
107	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
108	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
109	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
110	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.15 BURMAN OIL HURDLE (Handicap: £1,266; 2m)

201	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
202	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
203	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
204	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
205	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
206	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
207	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
208	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
209	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
210	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

2.45 GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL (Handicap: £1,330; 3m)

241	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
242	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
243	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
244	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
245	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
246	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
247	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
248	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
249	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
250	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

3.15 NORTHON STEEPCHASE (Div I: Novices: £1,046; 2m)

301	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
302	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
303	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
304	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
305	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
306	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
307	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
308	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
309	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
310	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.

3.45 SCORTON STEEPCHASE (Div II: £593; 2m)

341	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	R. Atkins
342	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	G. G. G.
343	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
344	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
345	20-1	Artifice (D), D. J. ...	A. G. G.
346	2		



# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

Personal  
investment and  
finance,  
pages 18 and 19

### Lyland disputes like 15,000 as pay curb tests grow

Shakespeare  
15,000 British Lyland  
are now idle and  
models are out of  
because of the cur-  
of shop floor disputes  
plunged the state-  
company into its  
for months.  
The outlook is  
with the prospect of  
lay-offs after the  
ally, much of the  
from the reorg-  
of manning arrange-  
a number of big  
th transfer of  
jobs. But there is  
that shop floor dis-  
also geared to the  
groundswell against  
pay restrictions, and  
over the steady  
skilled differentials.  
A trouble centre is  
ids car body-making  
Castle Bromwich,  
30 workers are on  
a further 2,500 laid  
production is at a  
stalemate started over  
it plans to switch  
to different depart-  
ment workers deman-  
dancy pay instead  
and in the end the  
dismissed 32 men  
300 walked out and  
received official  
their stoppage from

### Investors rush for FFT's 14 pc loan stock

By John Whitmore  
Financial Correspondent  
In strong contrast to its £75m  
stock offer two years ago  
Finance For Industry's £50m  
issue of 14 per cent unsecured  
loan stock this week has proved  
an enormous draw among  
investors. When applications  
list closed yesterday, the issue  
was some 30 times oversub-  
scribed.  
Even when first announced  
on Monday, the terms of the  
issue, offering a return almost  
two points above a comparable  
government stock, were widely  
considered to be overgenerous.  
Since then, the move in market  
rates has left the stock looking  
still more attractive.  
In addition, the stock is only  
£10 per cent payable in the first  
instance, with the calls for the  
remainder (£89) not falling for  
a number of weeks. Should,  
therefore, the stock move to a  
useful premium in first deal-  
ings on Monday, the gearing  
inherent in the £10 call would  
give the short-term investor a  
relatively large gain for a rela-  
tively small outlay.  
That opportunity is, however,  
being denied the smaller investor.  
Applications for up to  
£1,500 nominal of stock have  
been rejected. Applications for  
£1,600 up to £5,000 have been  
allotted £100 of stock, while  
applications over £5,000 receive  
2.99 per cent of their applica-  
tion.  
FFT's last major issue in  
early 1975 was only just over-  
subscribed, and even that was  
generally thought to have been  
achieved only after consider-  
able pressure from the authori-  
ties.

### Call to lower basic income tax and raise threshold for higher rate CBI seeks Budget cuts of £2,000m

By Malcolm Brown  
Employers are to ask the Chancellor  
to raise the threshold for higher rate  
personal income tax from £5,000 to £8,000,  
reduce the basic rate of tax from 35 to  
33 per cent and increase child allowances  
by 50 per cent above the levels at present  
proposed for the coming year.  
These are among the key Budget recom-  
mendations which will be put to Mr Healey  
before the end of the month by the Con-  
federation of British Industry. The cost  
is put at around £2,000m.  
The confederation, which will ask its  
grand council to ratify the proposals on  
Wednesday, has drawn up a list of mod-  
ifications to personal tax which would cost  
the Exchequer £1,900m in 1977-78. Also,  
it wants provision for tax relief for losses  
on companies' foreign currency borrow-  
ings which would cost about £200m.  
One controversial suggestion being dis-  
cussed by industrial leaders is that if the  
tax reductions cannot be fully set off by  
any other means the Government should  
consider selling more of its shares in  
British Petroleum to make up the  
difference.  
The CBI also rates a significant reduc-

tion in personal income tax as its top  
priority. Company tax changes are  
regarded as urgent but perhaps too costly  
for this Budget.  
Mr Healey will be asked to concentrate  
particularly on two groups—management  
and those caught in the so-called "poverty  
trap", in which a low paid man loses  
means-tested benefits as he earns more.  
CBI leaders have been compiling lists  
of top executives who are refusing to  
return from abroad because of financial  
loss.  
They will tell Mr Healey that two  
reforms are essential.  
First, a raising of thresholds and widen-  
ing of the bands for all higher rates of  
income tax; this would include raising the  
threshold for higher rate tax from £5,000  
to £8,000 and the threshold for the top rate  
to £30,000.  
Secondly, to give further relief to higher  
earners there should be a reduction in the  
top rate of tax on earned income from 83  
per cent to 75 per cent.  
To provide help for those at the lower  
end of the scale the employers also want  
the Exchequer to forgo about £450m to  
allow for improved child allowances. Tax  
experts calculate this would allow a 50  
per cent increase in child allowances.

### Mr Tikkoo sails into storm over crew's pay

Mr Ravi Tikkoo, the multi-  
millionaire shipowner, was  
accused yesterday of paying the  
Filipino crew of one of his  
tankers substantially less than  
internationally recommended  
rates of pay.  
Mr Jim Wood, Middle-  
brough branch secretary of the  
National Union of Seamen,  
claimed that 38 Filipino crew  
members serving on board the  
55,800 tons deadweight Globtik  
Venus were being paid only  
half the \$507 a month rate re-  
commended by the Interna-  
tional Transport Workers  
Federation.  
The vessel, built 14 years  
ago and renamed four times, is  
under charter to the French oil  
company, Elf, carrying Nor-  
wegian oil to Britain for re-  
ward transshipment to Europe.  
Under the charter terms it is  
flying the Bahaman flag.  
Mr Tikkoo, whose British-  
based company, Globtik  
Tankers, is valued at £150m,  
and who created a stir last week  
by signing a letter of intent  
with an American shipyard to  
build three nuclear-powered  
oil tankers, spoke last night  
from his London home about  
the ITF allegations.  
He said: "We do not  
recognise the ITF jurisdiction  
on the Globtik Venus. The com-  
pany is paying the Filipino  
crew in accordance with a  
special agreement under which  
they are entitled to many  
fringe benefits—which include  
free flights to Europe, which  
are very costly."  
"The company feels that it  
is being more than generous  
and the crew are very happy  
on board."  
The Kashmir-born shipowner,  
who spoke shortly after his  
company's solicitors had stated  
that Globtik had no comment  
to make, claimed that Mr Wood  
was not a NUS official.  
The company, he said, en-  
joyed good relations with the  
seamen's union. Mr Tikkoo  
stressed that the company had  
received no written communi-  
cations from the ITF and  
accused Mr Wood of "putting  
a pistol" at the heads of one  
or two of his executives by pro-  
ducing a 28 page ITF agree-  
ment for signature and  
payment.  
The NUS headquarters in  
London confirmed, however,  
that Mr Wood was the union's  
branch secretary on Teesside.  
The ITF said Mr Wood was a  
recognized inspector for the  
federation.  
Mr Wood said their grievance  
was being operated under a flag  
of convenience.  
"It is our policy to see that  
the wages and conditions which  
apply on the ship are brought  
up to standard", he added.  
Mr Wood returned to Tees-  
side and enlisted the support  
of other at the heads of one  
or two of his executives by pro-  
ducing a 28 page ITF agree-  
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or two of his executives by pro-  
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ment for signature and  
payment.

### Oilid accepts £24.6m Dutch bid void retrenchment abroad

Oilid  
s threat  
e inquiry  
to Mr Hattersley,  
State for Prices  
and Protection, Mr  
J. N. Kiely, the present  
chairman and managing director  
of Oilid, will resign on the  
offer becoming unconditional.  
There is no question of com-  
pensation as his term of em-  
ployment is at will.  
Mr J. Kaptein, president  
of the Dutch group, will become  
chairman of Oilid, and Mr  
J. V. H. Pennings, a director  
of the Dutch company, will be-  
come deputy chairman and  
managing director. Mr A. J.  
Barrett and Mr J. M. Jackson  
will join the board of Oilid.  
Mr Kaptein said: "We ex-  
pect a gradual restoration of  
Oilid's profits by putting in  
management and from the com-  
plementary nature of our com-  
panies."  
The terms are complex, in-  
volving 50p nominal of 9 per  
cent sterling/guilder loan stock,  
1987/92, which will be con-  
vertible during the whole of its life  
and 42p in cash, valuing the  
shares, with the stock at par,  
at 92p.  
Oilid shares yesterday fell  
15p to 86p, since the stock mar-  
ket found difficulty in assess-  
ing the stock until the exact  
conversion terms are known.  
The dollar premium will be  
payable on conversion.  
Mr Barrett and Mr Cyril  
Pitts, another Oilid director,  
who are connected with ICI,  
did not take part in discussion  
on terms. ICI has agreed to  
continue to supply polyester  
film to the combined group for  
a further five years.  
Oilid dominates the Diazo  
copying materials business,  
essential to the kind of "blue-  
prints" used in the construc-  
tion industry which was  
referred to the Monopolies  
Commission in 1974. That  
report has now been prepared  
and there are unlikely to be  
monopoly problems in putting  
through the merger.  
If the deal goes through, the  
Dutch group, which is about  
twice as large as Oilid and  
has a relatively ungeared bal-  
ance sheet, will have a one-for-  
five rights issue to finance the  
cash part of the deal of £11.3m.

### Norwegian shipyards to get £136m state aid

From Our Correspondent  
Oslo, Feb 11  
Norway will support its ship-  
building industry with 1,250m  
kroner (about £136m). Nor-  
wegian shipyards are facing a  
very difficult situation through  
lack of orders. The industry  
directly employs about 34,000  
workers but a much larger  
number of subcontractors are  
involved.  
The state aid will be chan-  
nelled to the industry by way  
of loans or guarantees, and not  
as a direct subsidy. This is the  
largest single operation so far  
in order to keep employment  
in the industry at a high level but  
other industries like pulp and  
paper and smelting have got  
assistance from the Government  
in order to keep their  
workers employed.  
A special Guarantee Institute  
for the shipping industry was  
organized last year with a  
capital ceiling of 4,000m  
kroner (£400m).  
The capital now earmarked  
for shipbuilding will be spread  
over a number of years and  
used partly to maintain jobs,

but also to assist the change-  
over to other industrial ac-  
tivities, as shipbuilding is cur-  
tailed.  
A new feature for Nor-  
wegian shipyards is a government  
guarantee for developing countries  
which order ships in Norway.  
This grant is up to 25 per cent  
of the cost of a ship. Twenty-  
seven such projects for 19 differ-  
ent developing countries are  
now under consideration, and  
the total value of these  
projects amounts to 3,500m  
kroner.  
But it is still an open ques-  
tion which or how many of these  
orders will materialize. Several  
contracts of this kind are, how-  
ever, already con-  
cluded and employment  
secured for yards.  
Further aid to shipyards will  
come in the form of orders for  
a series of seven new ships for  
the coastguard, to be organized  
to look after the 200-mile fish-  
ing zone. Until the new ships  
are commissioned, other ves-  
sels have been chartered by  
the Government and given  
special equipment and armed  
for fisheries protection duties.

### Lockheed's chairman is to resign

By Arthur Reed  
Mr Robert Haack, the New  
York banker who took over the  
chairmanship of Lockheed from  
Mr Dan Haughton at the height  
of the "bribe" scandal a year  
ago, will himself be succeeded  
in two to three months.  
Announcing this yesterday in  
London, where he is on a visit  
to see British aerospace  
leaders, Mr Haack indicated  
that with the worst of its finan-  
cial problems solved, Lockheed  
now needed a different chair-  
man "with qualities which I  
do not possess".  
The search for his successor  
was being conducted inside and  
outside the company.  
Mr Haack said that Lock-  
heed had had a years worth  
\$3,000m (about £1,800m) during  
the last 12 months—the highest  
in its history. It had paid off  
\$95m of the guaranteed portion  
of its loan, leaving \$100m. The  
total debt was \$680m and the  
company's working capital was  
\$100m. Two years ago  
the figures were \$950m and  
\$27m respectively.  
Referring to the bribes affair,  
Mr Haack said Lockheed was



Mr Haack, Lockheed 'living' with a stringent policy.

### Equities fall reflects wages doubt

By David Mott  
A week filled with concern  
over union opposition to fur-  
ther wage restraint ended with  
big losses for both equities and  
gilts on the London stock mar-  
kets yesterday.  
Though a little firmer by the  
end of the day, the FT 30-share  
index fell 2.2 lower at  
381.5, its worst performance for  
a fortnight and a loss of more  
than 22 points over the week.

### Retail sales in US decline by 2pc

From Frank Vogl  
Washington, Feb 11  
Wholesale prices in the  
United States rose by 0.5 per  
cent on a seasonally adjusted  
basis last month, after a 0.6  
per cent gain in December,  
while retail sales in January  
declined by 2 per cent on an  
adjusted basis to \$56,600m  
(\$53,300m).  
The news gave rise to  
further concern on United  
States share markets, where the  
Dow Jones industrial average  
has declined by roughly 7 per  
cent since the start of the year.  
Chief reasons for the mar-

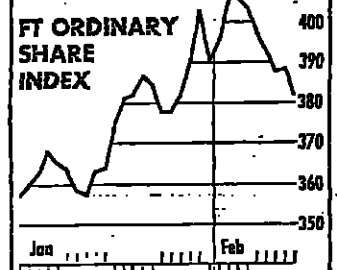
ket's weakness, according to  
New York analysts, are re-  
newed fears of higher inflation,  
speculation that the expected  
sharp rise in the economy's  
health has been jeopardized by  
the unusually cold weather  
here, and fears of rising inter-  
est rates.  
Citibank in New York  
announced today that it is hold-  
ing its prime lending rate at 6 1/2  
per cent. Many bankers take  
the view that this will be the  
lowest prime rate level seen  
this year and that increasing  
private and government borrow-  
ing, coupled with a refusal by  
the Federal Reserve Board to  
ease its monetary policies, will  
lead to higher rates.  
Fears over inflation centre on  
the recent sharp increases in  
energy costs resulting from the  
extremely heavy energy demand  
produced by the cold weather.  
Wholesale prices are now rising  
faster than they did in most of  
1976, and the index now stands  
at 188 (1967=100). This  
is 4.9 per cent above the level  
in January, 1976.  
Most economists are looking  
to strong retail sales to spark  
the expected substantial up-  
swing in the economy this year.

### Drop in MLR averted as formula stays suspended

By Financial Staff  
The normal formula for  
establishing the Bank of Eng-  
land's minimum lending rate  
remained in suspension yester-  
day. This followed applications  
for Treasury bills at the weekly  
tender at rates that would  
otherwise have forced MLR  
below the 12 per cent level at  
which the Bank wishes to hold  
it for the present.  
Although the volume of appli-  
cations at yesterday's tender  
showed a further sharp fall, this  
week's offer of £300m of three-  
month bills was still heavily  
oversubscribed—applications  
totalled £1,063m—and the aver-  
age rate at which bills were  
allotted dropped marginally  
from 11.286 per cent to 11.096  
per cent.

### Drop in MLR averted as formula stays suspended

Under the usual MLR for-  
mula this would have led to a  
cut in MLR from 12 to 11 1/2  
per cent. But the Bank, which  
has been trying to prevent short-  
term interest rates falling too  
fast, had already indicated  
ahead of the previous week's  
tender that, at least for the pre-  
sent, the formula would cease to  
apply so long as the rate at the  
weekly bill tender remained  
below a level that would be  
consistent with MLR continuing  
at 12 per cent.  
How long the Bank wishes to  
hold MLR at 12 per cent  
remains to be seen. The  
general assumption has been  
that it is keen to see interest  
rates held reasonably steady  
during negotiations over the  
next phase of pay policy.



For the account the drop was  
21.7.  
Dealers said that after their  
recent strong gains, equities had  
been showing signs of strain in  
the face of inflation worries.  
They look to Monday's trade  
figures to restore some of the  
balance, and a majority still feel  
the market is basically firm.  
There is, however, a minority  
which expects a period of  
uncertainty until the next round  
of the pay policy is settled and  
this, they point out, is not  
likely to happen until the  
Budget tax proposals are  
known. Gilts were additionally  
unsettled by an unchanged M3  
figure and a Treasury Bill  
rates indicating a reduction.  
Investor's Week, page 19

### Rolls RB211 may power new Soviet airbus

Moscow, Feb 11—The  
Soviet Union today suggested  
to Sir Kenneth Keith, Rolls-  
Royce chairman, that the  
RB211 engine could power a  
long-range version of Russia's  
new airliner, Ilyushin 86 aero-  
bus.  
Mr Kozygin, the Soviet Pre-  
mier, raised the issue during a  
90-minute meeting in the  
Kremlin, Sir Kenneth said  
afterwards.  
The prospect of Soviet pur-  
chases was very tentative and  
he said he was examining the  
feasibility before holding  
further discussions.  
Sir Kenneth, who is in  
Moscow to complete financing  
arrangements for a £100m con-  
tract to supply jet engines to  
Soviet natural gas said the  
Soviet Union was interested in  
promoting a very substantial  
increase in Anglo-Soviet trade.  
—Reuter.

### GILT BONDS

When interest rates are high, Government Stocks offer very attractive yields. When interest rates fall, the prices of gilt-edged stocks rise. Well timed gilt-edged investment can thus be highly rewarding.

Historically, yields on gilts are at present extremely high, and although they could go even higher, there is a strong probability that the trend will be downwards. Lower interest rates must be expected to have high priority in the Government's economic strategy.

The gilt-edged market, however, highly complex and one in which professional management is of vital importance. We have formed the M&G Gilt Bond Fund to enable our investors to profit from what most experts believe to be the highly favourable prospects of the gilt-edged market, with the benefit of the professional management which we can supply.

These bonds are long-term investments and the price can go down as well as up. Their price is quoted in most leading newspapers. There is a charge of 5% and 1% annually. All applicants aged over 65 are entitled to an element of life cover.

Switching Facility—If you invest a capital sum, you can switch lines of charge into another M&G Bond fund at any time, without being involved in a "chargeable event" for tax purposes.

Withdrawal Plan—you can receive payment of 5% p.a. of your investment for up to 20 years, free of basic rate tax and, until your Bond is finally encashed, higher rates as well. There may however be years in which withdrawals will be made at the partial expense of your original investment.

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Regular investment of this type also means that you can take advantage of the inevitable fluctuations in the price of units through Pound Cost Averaging, which gives you a positive arithmetical advantage, because your regular investment buys more units when the price is low and fewer when it is high.

You also benefit from life cover of at least 180 times your monthly payment throughout the period if you are at entry is 54 or under (women 58), and rather less up to the age of 75.

If you cash in or stop your payments during the first four years there is a penalty, and the tax authorities require us to make a deduction, so you should not consider the Plan for less than five years. Costs are low. For example, 91% is invested if you are aged between 45 and 49 when you start, except in the first two years when we invest 20 percentage points less to meet setting-up expenses.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Among the giants, M&G produced easily the most impressive performance. OBSERVER 19.12.76

The unit trust group of the year must be M&G SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 2.1.77

**TWO WAYS TO INVEST**

To: M&G GROUP LTD, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TEL: 01-626 4588. This section is to be completed by all applicants.

SURNAME (Mr/Ms/Mrs)

FULL FORENAME(S)

ADDRESS

POST CODE

**EITHER £250** Complete this section if you wish to make a Capital Investment (minimum £250).

**I WISH TO INVEST £** In M&G GILT BONDS at the price ruling at the next weekly subscription day (each Friday). I enclose my cheque, made payable to M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd.

Date of birth: / /

I enclose my cheque for the first monthly payment, payable to M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd.

Declaration (I) you cannot sign part one of this declaration but would nevertheless like to have a policy without the assurance cover you should strike out part one and retain the declaration.

PART II I hereby declare that to the best of my belief I am in good health and free from disease, that I have not had any serious illness or major operation, that I do not engage in hazardous sports or pursuits, that I do not engage in aviation except as a licensed passenger on recognised routes, and that no proposal for my life has ever been adversely treated.

PART III I agree that this declaration and any declaration made by me in connection therewith will be the basis of the contract and I will accept the customary form of policy of M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd.

SIGNATURE

DATE

**OR £10** Complete this section if you wish to make a Regular Monthly Saving Plan (minimum £10 a month).

If you want to save more than £20 per month or cannot sign Part I of the declaration, delete that part of the declaration and we will send you our standard withdrawal form, which you must send to us signed and dated.

I WISH TO SAVE £ each month in the M&G GILT BOND FUND.

I enclose my cheque for the first monthly payment, payable to M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd.

DATE OF BIRTH

NAMING AND ADDRESS OF USUAL DOCTOR (to whom reference may be made)

Are you an existing M&G Plan holder? If so, the M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd. will send you a new policy and you should retain the old one.

Declaration PART I I declare that, to the best of my belief, I am in good health and free from disease, that I have not had any serious illness or major operation, that I do not engage in hazardous sports or pursuits, that I do not engage in aviation except as a licensed passenger on recognised routes, and that no proposal for my life has ever been adversely treated.

PART II I agree that this declaration and any declaration made by me in connection therewith will be the basis of the contract between me and M&G Trust (Assurance) Ltd., and that I will accept their customary form of policy.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Registered in England No. 1048796. Reg. Office at above.

Members of The Life Office Association.

**FOUNDERS OF BRITAIN'S UNIT TRUSTS**

### he markets moved

THE POUND			
Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
buy	sell	buy	sell
Australia \$	1.53	1.53	
Austria Sch	20.75	20.75	
Belgium Fr	65.75	65.75	
Canada \$	1.75	1.75	
Denmark Kr	16.53	16.12	
Finland Mk	6.75	6.50	
France F	6.26	6.44	
Germany Dm	4.23	4.08	
Greece Dr	70.57	67.00	
Hongkong \$	8.33	8.23	
Italy Lr	1583.00	1530.00	
Japan Yn	515.00	490.00	
Netherlands Gld	4.50	4.28	
Norway Kr	9.00	9.00	
Portugal Esc	58.00	54.50	
S Africa Rd	2.20	2.03	
Spain Pes	121.75	113.25	
Sweden Kr	7.28	7.23	
Switzerland Fr	4.49	4.37	
US \$	1.75	1.71	
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.75	32.25	

Prices for small denomination bank notes and coins as quoted by leading banks. B&S International Ltd. Different rates for foreign currency business.

back at the end of  
scurities were also in  
40bps to \$1.120.  
ive devaluation " rate  
cent.

Rates Table 20  
Trust Reports: 18

United States & General  
Trust 19

Unit Trusts:  
M & G 17



## PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Taxation: Readers ask

## More about the child benefit scheme and deeds of covenant

This week I am answering some of the many letters I have received from readers. A fair number of you wrote after my articles on child benefit and child allowances. In one of the articles I suggested that it would be a good idea to take out a deed of covenant for a gross payment of £350 in favour of children who have reached the age of 18, have no taxable income and are receiving full-time education.

A reader points out that to be effective for tax purposes the covenant would have to be capable of lasting for more than six years, in the latter part of which the child would most likely be earning an income.

He adds: "Further, under the proposed 'Child Benefit Scheme' income tax child reliefs are to be phased out and the new child benefit will not be payable in respect of children who have reached 19. These two points are surely relevant factors in deciding on the advantages, if any, of taking out a deed of covenant as you suggest."

These long-term considerations need not put one off getting the immediate benefit. I agree that the covenant must be capable of lasting for more than six years but if in the meantime both covenantor and covenantee agree to cancel the deed then future payments do not have to be made and the previous payments hold good for tax purposes.

As blood is supposed to be thicker than water one would hope that the child would comply with the suggestion of the parent. If the blood turns out to be thinner there would in any case be no tax disadvantage, unless the child's income became sufficiently high to attract tax at the higher rates and the investment income surcharge.

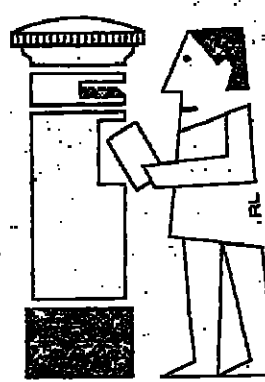
On the same topic a reader asks for further information about taking out a deed of covenant in favour of a child and inquires whether it would be ineffective for a younger child.

The reason for taking out a deed of covenant is that the payer gets tax relief at 33 per cent (assuming, of course, that he or she has sufficient income taxed at the basic rate to cover the gross payment), so on a gross commitment of £350 a tax of £122.50 will be deducted at source and the recipient gets the balance of £227.50. There is no relief at the higher rates.

From the recipient's point of view every child who is entitled to a tax free personal allowance of £735, so any tax suffered at source on income below this figure can be reclaimed. The point of restricting the gross amount to £350 is to avoid (as one should not over being under child benefit completely takes over) the loss of child allowances.

All this only works for a child who has attained his or her majority. A parent cannot for tax purposes claim a child who is younger than 18. A grandparent can, but in this case the gross amount has to be restricted to £115 because of the rule that investment income in excess of this figure will restrict the child allowance.

On the subject of child benefit and child allowances a



reader writes: "We have two children aged 19 and 21 both at university (and continuing there in 1977-78) for which we now receive a tax allowance of £355 each, as we contribute towards their maintenance. Under the new child benefit system only children under 19 on April 4, 1977, are eligible for benefit, which excludes our two. At the same time (according to your article) our income tax allowances for them will be considerably reduced. Is this correct?"

And afraid it is. However, the Inland Revenue has made a statement on this point as follows: "With regard to parents of students, those who are liable to a personal contribution will benefit from adjustments to be made in the parental contribution scales for student grants in the academic year commencing in September, 1977 (and subsequent years) to take account of the reduction in child tax allowances."

"Child benefit is not in any event payable for any child aged 19 or over, and in view of the adjustment to be made in student grant arrangements, it is proposed as from October, 1977, to exclude from entitlement to child benefit students under 19 on advanced courses."

Just whether this reader will be worse or better off on balance under the new scheme remains to be seen.

To finish on a quite different topic, a reader tells me that owing to oversights by two accountants with whom he has been dealing and the delay of the Inspector of Taxes in dealing with his tax returns he is now out of time in putting in a notice for separate assessment. In an article of mine written some months ago there is reference to the fact that the Inland Revenue has power to extend the time but will only do so in special cases.

The reader adds: "I presume that such power derives from a section of one of the Finance Acts and would be most grateful if you could let me know the authority for this statement that I can refer to it when I next take up the matter with the Inspector."

The reader is referring to an election for the separate taxation of wife's earnings which, in some circumstances, is a tax saving claim and is quite different from "separate assessment" (which is simply authority to apportion the total tax liability between husband and wife).

The authority for the Board of Inland Revenue to extend the time limit for separate taxation is contained in section 23(2) of the Finance Act 1971.

Vera Di Palma

Insurance

## Need for a new look at surrender values

Twenty, even 15 years ago, we lived in a world of modest inflation and low interest rates, and with every reasonable expectation that any change in our circumstances would inevitably be for the better.

Through bitter experience most of us have had to retract our belief in this pleasant state of life. Inflation is rampant. Interest rates, despite their recent fall, are still penal and at the best all we can look forward to is a slight easing in the pay policy and a tiny improvement in the cost of living.

In these changed circumstances long-range personal financial planning has become difficult for all and impossible for many.

In almost every field of saving this fact is recognized. In the stock market a long-term view is now no more than a year or even six months, some would argue. Parents, faced with the increasingly heavy burden of private education, will tend to hop in and out of state systems to ease the pressure of fees.

Building societies no longer impose surrender penalties when house-buyers cancel a mortgage early, because they wish to move house. The hire purchase industry has imposed upon it the condition that borrowers should be able to repay their debts early without adverse financial consequences.

But one major area of activity in which most of us are involved has still to alter its approach to take account of this world of rapidly changing circumstances—the life assurance industry.

Life assurance is by its nature a long-term commitment. One who has had to perform to surrender a policy will know how rigidly this view is imposed by the industry.

There is little sympathy and a sharp penalty in the shape of a very poor surrender value

on the policy for having "broken" the contract.

There is no global information about the number of people who surrender their assurance policies each year, but the figure must be significant. Each year since 1971 the life assurance industry has paid out more in surrender values than it has on death claims.

The surrender value statistics are, in their turn, inflated by the large surrenders of guaranteed income bonds in 1974 and 1975, but even if one knocks as much as £100m off the annual totals in those two years, surrender payments were still in excess of death claims and not much below maturity claims.

In fact, the life assurance policy is bought (or sold as the industry would insist) there are obvious administrative expenses. On top of that, the cost of the straight death cover element of the policy must be subtracted before one can begin to look at its investment content.

In practice, most of the paper work costs are incurred in the early years of the policy which is the justification of the virtually non-existent surrender value in these years. The "term" cost is not very high (for example the cost per

£1,000 of death cover for a man of 35 is under £10 a year).

The remaining proportion of the premium (although with traditional policies, as opposed to unit-linked contracts, this division is not identified) becomes part of the invested life fund. This fund is invested to ensure that the life office can meet its full range of contractual liabilities with some to spare—the surplus.

The surplus goes to reserves and is partly distributed later as bonuses, both reversionary and terminal, and according to a strict formula to shareholders in proprietary offices in the form of dividends.

The dispute about surrender values centres on how much of the available surplus should be allocated to policyholders who, for one reason or another, are unable to stay the course.

To a man, actuaries employed by insurance offices will argue that surrendering policyholders are taking only the bare minimum.

As the accompanying tables show, individuals who have been contributing to a policy for as much as 10 years may be in the position of receiving less back than the amount they have paid in premiums during that period, even after allowing for tax relief.

## SOME LOW SURRENDER VALUES

25 yr endowment surrendered after 10 yrs	15 yr endowment surrendered after 5 yrs
Total premiums paid: £1,000	£500
Economic Insurance	Windsor Life
London & Edinburgh	City of Glasgow
Windsor Life	London & Edinburgh
Scottish Equitable Life	Life Association of Scotland
Life Association of Scotland	Canada Life
Canada Life	Economic Insurance
Blackburn Assurance	University Life
Scottish Mutual	Canada Life
MGM Assurance	Scottish Mutual
	Sentinel Insurance

Policy value available on early surrender on May 1, 1976. Policy effected by a male age 30 next birthday at entry paying an annual premium of £100 p.a. Source: Planned Savings.

## SURRENDER VALUES OFFERED BY THE BEST SELLING LIFE OFFICES

	25 years with profits endowment surrendered after 10 years	15 years with profits endowment surrendered after 5 years
Total premiums paid:	£1,000	£500
Prudential	£1,193	£3,619
Northwich Union Life	1,005	3,172
Standard Life	1,078	3,411
Age & General	1,133	3,466
Co-operative Insurance	1,018	3,413
Commercial Union	1,106	3,039
Scottish Widows Fund	1,084	3,552
Guardian Life	1,000	3,114
Pearl Assurance	826	2,932
Sun Life Assurance	1,071	3,285

Policy value available on early surrender on May 1, 1976. Policy effected by a male age 30 next birthday at entry, paying an annual premium of £100 p.a. Source: Planned Savings.

The life offices' argument is that you cannot have something for nothing—in a policyholders' view, death cover which they depend on would have been grateful to receive if the policyholders had happened to die, which they did not; that any early surrender must upset their dependent calculations.

At the rate at which the life offices charge—well below bank overdraft and building society mortgage interest rates—insurance company loans are equally attractive to the interest of the other policyholders, because the company is deliberately not maximizing its investment return.

There is now an overwhelming case for saying that, at current low levels of surrender values, those receiving terminal bonuses get too large a share of the cake, leaving only crumbs for those who, after paying in for 10 or 15 years, are forced to surrender their policies early.

Reform along these lines would not alter the main structure of the life offices or force them to adopt a different, more conservative reversionary bonus structure. People surrendering policies do not expect exactly the same return as the investor who stays the full and agreed length of the course. But they are now being penalized by the insurance industry philosophy of pitching surrender values at what is fundamentally a deterrent level.

A situation where someone who has been saving through a life policy for 10 years would in fact have been better off taking out term assurance and putting the rest of his premium into a building society is not one that can really be tolerated today.

Investment trusts

## Another takeover bid sets the adrenalin flowing

The usually leisurely pace of the investment trust sector has speeded up recently. Spurred on by takeover activity, share prices have moved smartly ahead and since the beginning of December the average discount on assets has narrowed from 28 to 40 per cent.

The FT Actuaries index for investment trusts has risen from 133 to 164 over the same period.

Last week Guinness Peat, the commodity and banking house, bid for the London Electrical & General Trust, of which it is manager, in the face of a threat from United Kingdom Provident, a major shareholder in the trust. The previous week there was a bid from the British Rail Pension Fund for Standard, one of the nine Touche Remnant trusts.

Meanwhile, there is a flurry of liquidations, mergers and general activity going on elsewhere. Outside predators are showing their teeth just as the investment trust industry has been indulging in some loud trumpet blowing in an effort to lure back the private shareholder, whose disenchantment over the past few years with the industry has been emphasized by the problems of too many shares and too few investors.

Before the arrival of the British Rail Pension Fund on the scene a number of management groups were having a stab at improving the situation. Electra House announced that it was working on a scheme to merge Cable and Globe, where there are large crossholdings, to form a £150m colossus. Henderson is merging Mendip with the Cabot unit.

Hambros' medium sized funds and Rothschild's New Court are contemplating action, possibly liquidation.

But it is British Rail's cheeky job into the very heart of the investment trust establishment that puts most pressure on the rather gentlemanly world of fund management to do something about the situation. After the bid for LEGR at around 5 per cent above asset value there is obviously plenty of scope for an increase in the below-asset-value offer for Standard.

At the right price Touche Remnant, the managers cannot in the interests of shareholders justify opposition.

But there must be a danger that the arrival of outsiders (and several other pension funds are believed to have made quiet approaches only to be quickly quashed) will tend to put the managers on the defensive in

the short-term rather than encourage long-term rationalization that the sector obviously needs.

Money managers like Slater Walker have made no secret of the fact that they would like to acquire the management of investment trust groups, but there are more than a few number of houses, Touche and Murray Johnstone included are owned by the trusts they manage and are therefore out of reach.

Unitization is another way of keeping funds within management orbit as well as of eliminating the discount. Trust mergers certainly deal with the problem of cross holdings and the double discount to shareholders. They also create, as in the case of Cable and Globe, huge funds, quite impracticable to takeover.

Some of the merger activity, indeed, could be a mixed blessing for the market. Electra House has not kept its word precisely how its merger of Cable and Globe will operate, but there must be a possibility that with the recent appreciation in investment trust shares the £30m of crossholdings will not be eliminated, but floated out on the market—and this despite the fact that one of the welcome aspects of merger and



Lord Remnant, chairman of Standard Trust.

takeover activity in the sector is the reduction in its issued capital.

If all the plans under discussion do go through the amount taken out of the market so far would be about £100m, as against the widely quoted reduction of £500m needed to restore stability to the £5,000m market. A decision by Electra instead to float Cable and Globe's crossholdings stock

would be an unwelcome reversal of this trend.

A great deal of activity in investment trusts is an ephemeral nature. It is easy enough to tidy up the fringes of the sector. Simonside, an independent investment trust, recently announced that it was planning liquidation if there were no offers in the meantime.

Large independents such as Mercantile must be vulnerable to a bid. The Leopold Joseph trusts, where there are numerous crossholdings, must be ripe for change now that 21 per cent in one of them, Anglo Welsh, has just changed hands.

Institutions wishing to place a large amount of money in the market might find it convenient to find an investment trust vehicle. Similarly the merchant banks, where a large number of clear holdings, effectively protect an investment trust offshoot, may be tempted to use a trust as an alternative to cash find a full bid a handy rights issue.

But, arguably, all this leaves the rump of the industry no nearer to sorting out its conceptual role against the on-market trusts. The industry, the decline of the small investor and the era of high

interest rates that has reduced the advantages of a general

Managers have to find some way of justifying their existence other than as institutional bid fodder. The pressure is on for them to do something rather than just unwind some of the more controversial aspects of investment trust structure.

Although recent figures from the Association of Investment Trust Companies show that, judged purely on asset performance, the sector has done reasonably well over the past year, shareholders are given a little more than a minority of specialist trusts, are depressingly similar and information on strategy is generally limited to some weary banalities on the economy once a year, which few exceptions there is little indication of the amount of managerial activity.

The danger is that the euphoria which could build up in the investment trust market will lull the managers into a false sense of security about the need to take some initiative in the longer term future of the sector.

Margaret Drummond

Bonds

## Gilt-edged funds head the welcome recovery

Last year saw increased activity in the single premium bond market, particularly towards the end when money started chasing gilts. Unspectacular as the trend is compared with what happened in the early 1970s, it is still a "welcome recovery" though "one should not over the moon about it," says one of the leading companies in this field.

Figures last month from the Life Offices Association show single premium sales up 83 per cent from £219m in 1975 to £401m last year. The figures include all ordinary life assurance and annuity schemes.

In general, single premium bonds did not show such spectacular growth, but insurance companies are not complaining. In the early part of 1976 expansion followed the recovery in the stock market and as it slumped so did interest in equity-linked bonds. As interest rates rocketed, fixed interest funds came into their own, while the unprecedented rise in

the minimum lending rate had the opposite effect on property funds in the second half.

In the second half of the year gilts became the rage and a number of new gilt funds were introduced in the final weeks of the year.

The bonds are a form of single premium life assurance, like bonds or shares that can be cashed in at the bondholder's pleasure and similar to unit-linked life policies, since the ultimate value of the bond depends on the value of the underlying assets in which the single premium is invested. Insurance companies place the premiums in separate funds—property, equity, fixed interest or money (comprising all three sectors)—which operate very much like ordinary unit trusts.

Since they are not in fact unit trusts, the insurance companies are not hampered by promotional and investment restrictions affecting those. The bondholder is not the actual owner of units in the fund but

he has a degree of life cover—whole life policy cover—and the capital value of his bond will in the end depend on the investment performance of the underlying fund.

Basic rate taxpayers will receive their capital sum free of tax. Income tax has already been borne by insurance companies from the source, but the companies whose profits are paid by way of dividend to the funds. Higher rate taxpayers will face higher rate tax and investment surcharge liability, so it would be prudent to hold on to the bond until the days when income declines.

In this vein there are two more points worth mentioning. Many life companies permit "switching"—that is transferring the bondholding from one fund to another. Switching is done free of capital gains tax, and there is no loss of investment switch—cashing in stocks to reinvest in property, for instance—would involve capital gains.

Secondly, many companies offer withdrawal facilities. Bondholders may take out up to 5 per cent per annum of the value of the bond without paying tax at the time. This is a tax deferral, not a tax avoidance scheme, but it is a way of increasing annual spendable income.

The impression at Vanbrugh Life is that investors are increasingly looking to these bonds for tax reasons rather than strictly for investment gains. The advice is that a higher rate taxpayer should not purchase these bonds until the term view and the longer he can defer his tax liability on his withdrawals the better for him.

Bonds are flexible, too. Convertibles, or cash bonds, are available and see vehicles. Money is kept fairly tight in the smoke settles over the investment markets and the bondholder can decide more specifically where he would like his premium investment to go.

Managed funds theoretically cover all three major investment areas. Of course, invest-

## SINGLE PREMIUM BOND SALES\*

	(£) 1975	(£) 1976	% change
**Abbey Life	20.8 m	24.7m	17.47
Cannon	1.0 m	3.5m	250.0
Hambro Life	16.5 m	35.5m	115.15
	.95m	1.7m	80.0
†M & G	1.5 m	3.8m	153.3
††Sag & Prosper	0.8 m	1.4m	75.0
††Tynhall	1.5m	1.7m	10.9
Vanbrugh	12.0 m	35.0m	191.68

\* These figures include all single premium bond business, including that linked to unit trusts where companies have such schemes, but they exclude regular savings and annual premium sales.

\*\* Abbey figures result largely from increase in sales of the new Life Income Plan.

†† Save and Prosper figures are rounded up to the nearest million.

†† M & G figures for year ending September 30.

†† Tynhall figures are calculated on a year ending June 30.

ment splits are the business of insurance companies.

Finally, there is much wider use of share exchange schemes than there used to be. Investors deliver their share certificates in lieu of a single premium payment and thereby save on paperwork and perhaps on dealing costs as well.

Timing is obviously of the essence. The notable feature of last year's growth was the influx of money into fixed interest bonds, gilt funds in particular.

Vanbrugh, for example, estimate that the second half of the year perhaps as much as 50 per cent of their new money went there. Earlier in the year managed funds seemed to attract the most investment, reflecting investors' indecision and caution.

Hambro and Abbey did very well, particularly in the first half of the year. Hambro sales were up just over 100 per cent on the year before and property led with investment fairly evenly distributed among the other funds. With the greatest proportion of total single premium income also went to property funds.

good advice, the ordinary investor got his timing right for a change. A number of new gilts lifted the market and money poured in, some of it accounted for by switching.

The general view is that fixed interest funds will continue to be attractive for the next two to three months at least, depending on how fast short-term interest rates come down.

As with all investment fashions, there is always the danger that it may be carried too far or that investors may overlook other potentially attractive markets. With interest rates falling, property funds and property bonds are probably a good bet. Vanbrugh, for one, are bullish.

At present there are at least 50 companies offering nearly 150 policies altogether. It is essential to compare the charges, surrender terms, possible income options, death benefits and other guarantees which may be provided.

Also, it is always helpful to study the investment splits of various fund portfolios and the overall investment breakdown of the insurance companies offering more than one type of bond.

Pensions

## Problem of providing increases in your post-retirement income

The sequence of the various items in pension schemes' descriptive booklets varies from scheme to scheme. After dealing with the way the amount of pension or lump sum is worked out, many go on to deal with the date of commencement of pension and details of payment.

I shall leave this until later, as also the question of lump sum benefits at retirement, and turn next to increases of pension in course of payment—probably as important a feature of a scheme as any other, and the subject of this article.

The whole philosophy and practicalities of pension increases are less simple than might be thought at first sight. The pensioner's right to most all pension schemes—possibly even in public service schemes. Quite apart from the considerable and unquantifiable cost of contractual cost of living increases, any increases must cost money. It is felt by some that any available resources should be applied first to raising the level of the pension at retirement date.

There is a lot to be said for this argument in relation to benefits which are really too small to enable pensioners to live in retirement with a measure of comfort. It is more difficult to sustain this view once the benefit has been raised to a reasonable level, and the case for putting pension increases in the order of priorities, if ever it had conviction, has lost it in the face of high levels of inflation in recent years.

The question is one of judgment. Views of what constitutes a "reasonable" level of provision will vary: so also will views on the degree of protection which a pensioner needs.

As people grow older, their activities inevitably reduce, and they are content to live more quietly. Their financial needs reduce overall, although specific items (heating is probably

the most important) move against this general trend.

Some contraction in income in retirement is therefore acceptable, provided that it is kept within limits. With inflation running at 3 or 4 per cent for 10 or 15 years, it is possible to ignore the problem; at today's inflation levels it is not.

The differences of philosophy, as well as differing financial resources of various employers, are clearly reflected in the range of methods for dealing—or not dealing—with this problem.

Pension schemes fall into three broad categories. Some do not provide for increases (or, although they have the power to increase pensions, never use it). Others give pensioners a contractual right to receive increases, but only on some specified basis.

Between these two extremes, many schemes review pensions at regular or irregular intervals, and make increases in the range of changes in money values, the financial state of the scheme, and the willingness of the employer to provide more money.

In fact, the majority of pension schemes include provisions in their rules which allow them to increase pensions above the level of the standard formula, according to pay and length of service. These powers normally apply equally to a pension which is being paid and to one which has not yet started. They do not, however, necessarily increase an increase up to the maximum permitted by the Inland Revenue, although at the time the rules are drafted they normally do so, for there is no point in restricting powers which need not be exercised.

Even though most schemes have these powers, they do not normally use them. The most you will find in the descriptive booklet will probably be a brief general reference in a paragraph tucked away at the end covering such odds and ends as the employer's right to ter-

minate his financial support for the scheme, prohibition of assignment of benefits, the position of members who become bankrupt and other formalities.

Unless there is some much more precise description and in a more prominent position, it would be prudent to assume that the scheme's normal practice is to leave the amount of a pension unchanged once it has started. After all, it is an important plus point in a scheme which provides increases whether on a contractual basis or by regular reviews in the light of circumstances.

If a scheme, which normally leaves pensions unchanged, decides to make an exception in times of particular difficulty, probably financed by a special payment from the employer, the pensioners will receive an unexpected bonus: but this is better than counting on this sort of protection, perhaps on the strength of some isolated event in the past, and being disappointed.

Eric Brunet

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## THE CHARTER TRUST &amp; AGENCY LIMITED

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th November, 1976

	1976	1975
GROSS REVENUE	£1,490,960	£1,356,513
NET REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR ORDINARY STOCK	£692,494	£632,488
EARNED FOR ORDINARY STOCK (net)	1.88p	1.71p
DIVIDENDS ON ORDINARY STOCK (net)	1.80p	1.56p
INVESTMENTS—Valued at 30th November		
Total value including net current liabilities/assets	£24,043,300	£24,853,082
Attributable to Ordinary Stock	£19,581,113	£20,383,939
Net asset value per unit of 25p	53p	55p











### Stock Exchange Prices

## Account ends on a low note

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin, Monday. Dealings End, Feb 25. \$ Contango Day, Feb 28. Settlement Day, March 3  
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*off on ya go*

**BELL'S**  
SCOTCH WHISKY  
*Afore ye go*

FUND									
Symbol	Price	Change	% Chg	Symbol	Price	Change	% Chg	Symbol	Price
1000	100.00	0.00	0.00	2000	100.00	0.00	0.00	3000	100.00
1001	100.00	0.00	0.00	2001	100.00	0.00	0.00	3001	100.00
1002	100.00	0.00	0.00	2002	100.00	0.00	0.00	3002	100.00
1003	100.00	0.00	0.00	2003	100.00	0.00	0.00	3003	100.00
1004	100.00	0.00	0.00	2004	100.00	0.00	0.00	3004	100.00
1005	100.00	0.00	0.00	2005	100.00	0.00	0.00	3005	100.00
1006	100.00	0.00	0.00	2006	100.00	0.00	0.00	3006	100.00
1007	100.00	0.00	0.00	2007	100.00	0.00	0.00	3007	100.00
1008	100.00	0.00	0.00	2008	100.00	0.00	0.00	3008	100.00
1009	100.00	0.00	0.00	2009	100.00	0.00	0.00	3009	100.00
1010	100.00	0.00	0.00	2010	100.00	0.00	0.00	3010	100.00
1011	100.00	0.00	0.00	2011	100.00	0.00	0.00	3011	100.00
1012	100.00	0.00	0.00	2012	100.00	0.00	0.00	3012	100.00
1013	100.00	0.00	0.00	2013	100.00	0.00	0.00	3013	100.00
1014	100.00	0.00	0.00	2014	100.00	0.00	0.00	3014	100.00
1015	100.00	0.00	0.00	2015	100.00	0.00	0.00	3015	100.00
1016	100.00	0.00	0.00	2016	100.00	0.00	0.00	3016	100.00
1017	100.00	0.00	0.00	2017	100.00	0.00	0.00	3017	100.00
1018	100.00	0.00	0.00	2018	100.00	0.00	0.00	3018	100.00
1019	100.00	0.00	0.00	2019	100.00	0.00	0.00	3019	100.00
1020	100.00	0.00	0.00	2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	3020	100.00
1021	100.00	0.00	0.00	2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	3021	100.00
1022	100.00	0.00	0.00	2022	100.00	0.00	0.00	3022	100.00
1023	100.00	0.00	0.00	2023	100.00	0.00	0.00	3023	100.00
1024	100.00	0.00	0.00	2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	3024	100.00
1025	100.00	0.00	0.00	2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	3025	100.00
1026	100.00	0.00	0.00	2026	100.00	0.00	0.00	3026	100.00
1027	100.00	0.00	0.00	2027	100.00	0.00	0.00	3027	100.00
1028	100.00	0.00	0.00	2028	100.00	0.00	0.00	3028	100.00
1029	100.00	0.00	0.00	2029	100.00	0.00	0.00	3029	100.00
1030	100.00	0.00	0.00	2030	100.00	0.00	0.00	3030	100.00
1031	100.00	0.00	0.00	2031	100.00	0.00	0.00	3031	100.00
1032	100.00	0.00	0.00	2032	100.00	0.00	0.00	3032	100.00
1033	100.00	0.00	0.00	2033	100.00	0.00	0.00	3033	100.00
1034	100.00	0.00	0.00	2034	100.00	0.00	0.00	3034	100.00
1035	100.00	0.00	0.00	2035	100.00	0.00	0.00	3035	100.00
1036	100.00	0.00	0.00	2036	100.00	0.00	0.00	3036	100.00
1037	100.00	0.00	0.00	2037	100.00	0.00	0.00	3037	100.00
1038	100.00	0.00	0.00	2038	100.00	0.00	0.00	3038	100.00
1039	100.00	0.00	0.00	2039	100.00	0.00	0.00	3039	100.00
1040	100.00	0.00	0.00	2040	100.00	0.00	0.00	3040	100.00
1041	100.00	0.00	0.00	2041	100.00	0.00	0.00	3041	100.00
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1045	100.00	0.00	0.00	2045	100.00	0.00	0.00	3045	100.00
1046	100.00	0.00	0.00	2046	100.00	0.00	0.00	3046	100.00
1047	100.00	0.00	0.00	2047	100.00	0.00	0.00	3047	100.00
1048	100.00	0.00	0.00	2048	100.00	0.00	0.00	3048	100.00
1049	100.00	0.00	0.00	2049	100.00	0.00	0.00	3049	100.00
1050	100.00	0.00	0.00	2050	100.00	0.00	0.00	3050	100.00
1051	100.00	0.00	0.00	2051	100.00	0.00	0.00	3051	100.00
1052	100.00	0.00	0.00	2052	100.00	0.00	0.00	3052	100.00
1053	100.00	0.00	0.00	2053	100.00	0.00	0.00	3053	100.00
1054	100.00	0.00	0.00	2054	100.00	0.00	0.00	3054	100.00
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1078	100.00	0.00	0.00	2078	100.00	0.00	0.00	3078	100.00
1079	100.00	0.00	0.00	2079	100.00	0.00	0.00	3079	100.00
1080	100.00	0.00	0.00	2080	100.00	0.00	0.00	3080	100.00
1081	100.00	0.00	0.00	2081	100.00	0.00	0.00	3081	100.00
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1092	100.00	0.00	0.00	2092	100.00	0.00	0.00	3092	100.00
1093	100.00	0.00	0.00	2093	100.00	0.00	0.00	3093	100.00
1094	100.00	0.00	0.00	2094	100.00	0.00	0.00	3094	100.00
1095	100.00	0.00	0.00	2095	100.00	0.00	0.00	3095	100.00
1096	100.00	0.00	0.00	2096	100.00	0.00	0.00	3096	100.00
1097	100.00	0.00	0.00	2097	100.00	0.00	0.00	3097	100.00
1098	100.00	0.00	0.00	2098	100.00	0.00	0.00	3098	100.00
1099	100.00	0.00	0.00	2099	100.00	0.00	0.00	3099	100.00
1100	100.00	0.00	0.00	2100	100.00	0.00	0.00	3100	100.00
1101	100.00	0.00	0.00	2101	100.00	0.00	0.00	3101	100.00
1102	100.00	0.00	0.00	2102	100.00	0.00	0.00	3102	100.00
1103	100.00	0.00	0.00	2103	100.00	0.00	0.00	3103	100.00
1104	100.00	0.00	0.00	2104	100.00	0.00	0.00	3104	100.00
1105	100.00	0.00	0.00	2105	100.00	0.00	0.00	3105	100.00
1106	100.00	0.00	0.00	2106	100.00	0.00	0.00	3106	100.00
1107	100.00	0.00	0.00	2107	100.00	0.00	0.00	3107	100.00
1108	100.00	0.00	0.00	2108	100.00	0.00	0.00	3108	100.00
1109	100.00	0.00	0.00	2109	100.00	0.00	0.00	3109	100.00
1110	100.00	0.00	0.00	2110	100.00	0.00	0.00	3110	100.00
1111	100.00	0.00	0.00	2111	100.00	0.00	0.00	3111	100.00
1112	100.00	0.00	0.00	2112	100.00	0.00	0.00	3112	100.00
1113	100.00	0.00	0.00	2113	100.00	0.00	0.00	3113	100.00
1114	100.00	0.00	0.00	2114	100.00	0.00	0.00	3114	100.00
1115	100.00	0.00	0.00	2115	100.00	0.00	0.00	3115	100.00
1116	100.00	0.00	0.00	2116	100.00	0.00	0.00	3116	100.00
1117	100.00	0.00	0.00	2117	100.00	0.00	0.00	3117	100.00
1118	100.00	0.00	0.00	2118	100.00	0.00	0.00	3118	100.00
1119	100.00	0.00	0.00	2119	100.00	0.00	0.00	3119	100.00
1120	100.00	0.00	0.00	2120	100.00	0.00	0.00	3120	100.00
1121	100.00	0.00	0.00	2121	100.00	0.00	0.00	3121	100.00
1122	100.00	0.00	0.00	2122	100.00	0.00	0.00		













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DEATHS

**FOLEY**—On 10th February, 1977, Sir John H. Foley, 70, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. He was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. He was survived by his wife, Mrs. H. Foley, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Foley and Mr. R. H. Foley.

**WATKINS**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Watkins, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Watkins, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Watkins and Mr. R. H. Watkins.

**CRIMES**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Crimes, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Crimes, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Crimes and Mr. R. H. Crimes.

**MURDOCH**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Murdoch, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Murdoch, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Murdoch and Mr. R. H. Murdoch.

**MURRAY**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Murray, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Murray, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Murray and Mr. R. H. Murray.

**TAYLOR**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Taylor, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Taylor, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Taylor and Mr. R. H. Taylor.

**LOVELAND**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Loveland, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Loveland, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Loveland and Mr. R. H. Loveland.

**OMMANN**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Ommann, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Ommann, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Ommann and Mr. R. H. Ommann.

**DICKSON**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Dickson, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Dickson, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Dickson and Mr. R. H. Dickson.

**BRIDGE**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Bridge, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Bridge, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Bridge and Mr. R. H. Bridge.

**COOPER**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Cooper, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Cooper, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Cooper and Mr. R. H. Cooper.

**LAKE**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Lake, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Lake, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Lake and Mr. R. H. Lake.

**MEESON**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Meeson, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Meeson, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Meeson and Mr. R. H. Meeson.

**SCORFIELD**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Scorfield, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Scorfield, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Scorfield and Mr. R. H. Scorfield.

**ALLAN**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Allan, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Allan, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Allan and Mr. R. H. Allan.

**DOWN**—On 10th February, 1977, Mrs. J. Down, 65, of 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, died of cancer. She was a member of the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Medicine. She was survived by her husband, Mr. J. Down, and two sons, Mr. J. H. Down and Mr. R. H. Down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CARING MEANS DOING SOMETHING—SO PLEASE**  
Spore a little for those in need. The Carers' Trust is a voluntary organisation which provides practical help and support to carers of the sick, disabled and elderly. We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**CANCER RESEARCH**  
The heavy toll that cancer still takes when it is not detected early enough is a constant reminder of the need for more research. The Cancer Research Campaign is a voluntary organisation which provides financial support for research into the causes and treatment of cancer. We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**MEND A HEART**  
Thousands of children have been saved by research into heart disease. The Heart Research Foundation is a voluntary organisation which provides financial support for research into the causes and treatment of heart disease. We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN**  
To the largest single supporter in the U.K. of research into the causes and treatment of cancer. The Cancer Research Campaign is a voluntary organisation which provides financial support for research into the causes and treatment of cancer. We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**ANCIENT MARINERS**  
We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**16-YEAR-OLD**  
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We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

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We are now seeking donations of any amount to help us continue our work. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**SPORT AND RECREATION**  
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**UK HOLIDAYS**  
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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 23

**UK HOLIDAYS**  
**JUBILEE STAGE COACH**  
**BATH TO LONDON**  
**5 DAYS**  
All that are desirous to pass from Bath to London or vice versa, can do so in comfort and style. The Jubilee Stage Coach is a modern, comfortable coach with a professional driver. It is available for hire for 5 days. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**REWARD**  
Are you an Hotel with holiday accommodation available in 1977? Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

**WINTER BREAKS**  
SUNSHINE, SEA, SAND, and a little something more. The Winter Breaks are a series of holiday packages for the winter months. They include accommodation, transport, and meals. Please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

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If you are looking for a holiday villa, please contact us at 10, St. John's Road, London, N.W.11, for more information.

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